

friends of ballard park

1996 to 2018
By Colleen McGrath
January 2019

Introduction

On October 30, 1990, Carol C. Ballard donated a thirteen-acre parcel of land to the City of Newport for the purpose of “maintaining the real property in its natural, scenic or open condition in perpetuity for the enjoyment of all of Newport’s residents”. Today the site includes over one mile of hiking trails and several habitats: a vernal pond, meadow and forest.

In March 1996, Friends of Ballard Park received its 501(c)(3) status. The first board members were Carol C. Ballard, Richie Sayer and Ginny Purviance. Thirty-five people have served on the board of Friends of Ballard Park since its inception. Carol Ballard was the longest serving trustee with twenty years as president of the board. She moved to founder status in 2015 and Peggy Richmond became the board’s new president.



Friends of Ballard Park (FBP) connected the public to this site and nature by transforming the former dumping ground and graffitied, underage drinking spot to a vibrant, well used community park. Friends of Ballard Park presented educational programs, hosted public events and performed maintenance in the park. When the organization formed in 1996, board members focused on creating a trail system and cleaning up the site.

the public to use Ballard Park. They did this through the creation of events. The first, large scale event was the Ballard Park Pumpkin Tour held in October 2003. More than 2,000 people turned out for the event. People called the police station to ask “where is Ballard Park?”. At its height, the tour attracted more than 5,300 people over a four-hour span.

In addition to promoting the park, FBP worked to support area artists by hiring local musicians to perform at concerts, collaborated with organizations like Island Moving Company to present dance performances and created opportunities for artists to showcase their work at events such as the Pumpkin Tour and Illuminated Garden. FBP also encouraged area youth to pursue the arts by incorporating educational components into its events. Young thespians appeared as characters from *Alice In Wonderland* at the Mad Hatter (Iced) Tea Party and for five years FBP held the Molly Finn Battle of the Bands which awarded performing and recording time to young musicians. Close to two hundred musicians ranging in age from 11 to 59 years old performed at the event during its five-year run.



The first educational programs were held in summer 2002. Participants in the City of Newport's Teen Extreme program made four trips to Ballard Park to partake in a variety of activities led by board member Charlene Tuttle. Activities included fieldwork and identification of birds and plant life; learning about predator/prey relationships and substance abuse prevention.



Over the years, FBP's educational programs expanded to include field trips, after school programs, home school lessons and children's workshops. Programs at Ballard Park taught children about trail safety and how to stay safe in the woods. Lessons provided hands-on opportunities to study geology, botany, nature and more.

Friends of Ballard Park's efforts were recognized in a variety of publications. In July 2007, Ballard Park was voted one of "the seven wonders of Aquidneck Island" in a readers' poll by *The Newport Daily News*. Both the Mad Hatter (Iced) Tea Party and Movies on the Rocks series received *Rhode Island Monthly's* Best Outdoor Entertainment award. And, the Illuminated Garden was noted in national publications, *Travel & Leisure* and *U.S. News & World Report*, as an event to attend.



In addition to being the longest serving board member, Carol Ballard was also the organization's biggest supporter. She and her husband, Les, hosted an annual fundraiser for ten years which kicked off Newport's summer social season and provided additional financial support. She frequently attended events at Ballard Park and enjoyed talking with event goers. Carol especially loved seeing children use Ballard Park for outdoor learning.

Ballard Park

Between 1830 and 1936, Ballard Park and the surrounding area was known as Coddington Quarry. The site's native granite provided rock for the foundations of area homes and road paving materials. The excavations created two separate canyons – one located in the abutting 54 acres and the other in Ballard Park.

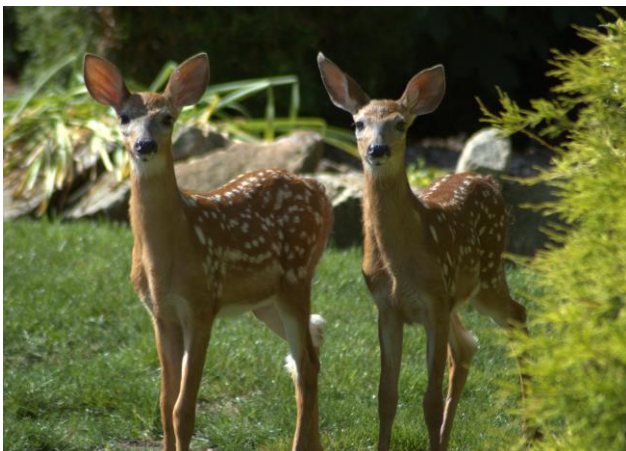
According to Newport historian, Phil Connell, stone and gravel extracted from these quarries supplied material to build “The Hedges” on Howe Avenue, “Rough Point”, “Nethercliff”, the first floor of the “Newport Artillery” on Clarke Street as well as stone walls on Bellevue Avenue. Gravel from the quarry was used in the first paving of Ocean Drive. Originally part of John Alfred Hazard’s “Rocky Farm,” the land was bequeathed to the Newport Hospital in 1880. Newport Hospital sublet the quarry to Louis Brown and John Howard who appointed Joseph Cotton, the first Army Corps Engineer as overseer. Subsequently subdivided, then repeatedly sold, the land was own by Anita O’Keefe and Arthur Curtis James prior to the Ballards.



In 1981 the Ballard Family purchased the property. In 1987 the voters of the City of Newport and the State of Rhode Island overwhelmingly voted to provide funding for the preservation of open space. The City of Newport was one of the first communities to take advantage of the Department of Environmental Management’s open space grant. Representatives from the city approached Mr. & Mrs. Ballard about their seventy-two acre parcel. Funds from the open space grant were used to purchase fifty-four acres of land they owned. A nature lover, Carol ensured a conservation easement was placed on the land and it was closed to the public so that Aquidneck Island’s animals and birds had an undisturbed place to nest and roam. She felt the abutting thirteen acres would serve as the perfect viewing area and natural extension of this parcel.

On October 30, 1990 Carol C. Ballard gifted 13 acres (now AP 41/Lot 390) to the City of Newport for general passive recreational purposes. The Ballards retained three acres along Hazard Road. Restrictions were placed on the sale of this property with certain funds of a future sale allocated to supporting Ballard Park.

Collectively, the corridor of Ballard Park and the 54 acres, provides for one of the most valuable wildlife sanctuaries in Newport. Deer, mink, opossum, coyotes and snapping turtles have all been spotted in Ballard Park. Additionally, bird watchers have identified more than 100 species of migratory and breeding species in the area. Notable bird nesters observed include great horned owl, red-tailed hawk and Cooper’s hawk.



Ballard Park provides diverse vegetation and hydrologic features. Since the construction of Rogers High School in the late 1950s, much of the land on the highlands has succeeded to scrub-shrub or forested wetland habitat.

1990's

In the mid 1990's, Friends of Ballard Park and the City of Newport's Parks Department cleaned up the quarry meadow of Ballard Park. Refrigerators, ovens, construction pipes, a car

and other heavy-duty items were hauled from the area. US Navy Seabees cleared tons of junk from the three-acre quarry meadow. Deborah McQuade and Jon Isham were part of the effort, forming a "Newport Clean and Greens" program to clean up debris in Ballard Park and build a trail system.

On February 1, 1996 the first official minutes were filed for Friends of Ballard Park. In March,

501(c)(3) status was received. Board members were Carol C. Ballard, Richie Sayer and Ginny Purviance. Katie Philson was hired as the organization's part-time coordinator.

On March 30, 1996 a clean-up day was held which several volunteers attended. Several more "trail blazing days" were hosted in April when volunteers cleared, cleaned and pruned two major trails. They also installed a base of wood chips to sections of trails.

Mission Statement

The April 1996 board meeting minutes note the organization's intention of Ballard Park being for passive recreational use (hiking, quiet observation of nature) as opposed to active recreational use (jogging, mountain biking, rock climbing).

The board adopted a mission statement in September 1996:

Ballard Park is located in the City of Newport, RI. It is a wild and natural open space of 13 acres contiguous to a 54-acre wildlife preserve. Its unique features include two 19th century quarries and a diverse variety of native and introduced plant species.

The Friends of Ballard Park is dedicated to protecting, preserving and maintaining the Park. Its goals are to make the Park accessible to the public for the peaceful contemplation of nature, as a passive cultural and educational resource and as a place recognized for its unique and exceptional aesthetic quality.

A nature walk led by Peter Simpson was attended by 20 people. In November Hootie Fogg was hired as an assistant. Ms. Fogg left in Spring 1997 and Katie Philson moved to California in the

HIGHLIGHTS

1994

A group of concerned citizens organized to assist the City of Newport in repairing damage to access road

FBP paid to grade and contour the Hazard Road entrance

Large scale removal of debris

1996

501(c)(3) Status Received

On-going clearing, cleaning, pruning of two major trails

Installed wood chip base to sections of trails

Loop trail established in forested area

Mission Statement adopted

Jim Baker, Hap Morgan and Peter Simpson join FBP board

1997

18 trail markers installed (and destroyed by vandals)

Paid for cutting and clearing of brush and debris in quarry meadow as well as grading and seeding

Inventory of Plants conducted by Rhode Island Wild Plant Society

Designed, fabricated and installed signs at Wickham Road and Hazard Road entries

Park hours designated as dawn to dusk via city ordinance on 8/13/1997

Julie Toland joins FBP board

fall. Stephanie Hubbard served as a part time coordinator for several months.

In 1997, board members purchased and installed 18 trail markers along trees in the upper forested area of the park. The markers were destroyed and removed by vandals several days later.

Friends of Ballard Park held several clean-up/trail pruning/brush clearing sessions between November and April. On April 13th a clean-up included volunteers Jim Teehan, Mary Philcox and Hap Morgan.

Minutes from a 1997 board meeting note Ballard Park is “frequently used for underage drinking parties with vast amounts of litter, broken bottles and the hacking at oak trees to provide wood for campfires.” The minutes included a July 6th *Newport Daily News* article about 21 year, Ivan Aguas, of Newport falling 30 feet off “Carpenter’s Canyon” while climbing down the face of the cliff.

FBP made a request to the Newport City Council for the hours of operation be officially designated as dawn to dusk via city ordinance. The Newport City Council passed the ordinance on August 13, 1997.

In 1998, Friends of Ballard Park paid to have signs installed noting rules of the park. Ocean Heights neighbors Mike and Natalia Howe donated several truckloads of clean fill to spread in the meadow. But the negative behavior continued with someone cutting through the Hazard Road gate in August and remnants of bonfires and lots of trash frequently found in the meadow.

In August 1998, Patrice Davis was hired as a part time coordinator. Ms. Davis resigned in October of 1999.



architect Wendy Pomeroy at a cost of \$2,000. The model was displayed at the Newport Public Library, City Hall and the Hotel Viking for a National Parks Conference (it was given to City of Newport in October 2018).

1998

Signage designed and produced for Wickham Road

Mike and Natalia Howe donated several truckloads of clean fill to spread in the meadow

Mary Hayes joins the board

1999

Dog Refuse and Trash Bins Installed

Grading of quarry meadow And Wickham Road entrance completed

FBP fought efforts to make Ballard Park a dog park

Squatter found living in Ballard Park for several weeks

Model of Ballard Park created by Wendy Pomeroy

Frank Amaral, Kathy Irving and Natasha Harrison are appointed to FBP board

Grading of the quarry meadow and Wickham Road entrance was completed in 1999 by East Coast Landscaping at a cost of \$2,714 and Friends of Ballard Park fought a proposed dog park in Ballard Park. Carol Ballard sent a letter to then Mayor David Gordon and board member Jim Baker spoke at a council meeting in opposition of the proposal which did not move forward.

The board also commissioned a model of Ballard Park which was produced by landscape

2000s

Friends of Ballard Park operated in mostly a volunteer capacity. Mandie Sullivan served as a part time coordinator from February to July 2000.

Ballard Park continued to be an area plagued by trash and used for underage drinking parties. Teens threw items off of the quarry wall “David Letterman-style” to watch them smash. Over the years, FBP staff and volunteers discovered many items thrown into the meadow including traffic lights, televisions, computers, furniture and a clawfoot tub.

In August 2001, native Newporter Colleen McGrath was hired as a part-time executive director.

A third entrance to the park was created in 2001 at the corner of Hazard & Wickham Roads. The City of Newport began to provide regular maintenance in the park, mowing around the meadow.



the prospect of finding a bike they could use only to discover the frame destroyed by its toss over the cliff.



2002

In the spring of 2002, Friends of Ballard Park commissioned the carpentry program at the Newport Area Career and Technical Center on the Rogers High School campus to build a boardwalk on the loop trail. The trail was impassable during the winter months due to water. The boardwalk measured 125 feet and was built by students E.J. Reynolds, Mason Focarelli, Chris Walker, Joseph Kirwin and Adam Costa. In fall 2002, a second 250-foot boardwalk was installed on the loop trail. Materials for the first boardwalk were paid for by Friends of Ballard Park (\$993). A grant in the amount of \$1,250 was provided by the RI Trails

2000

Bus stop installed at Wickham Road entrance

Model of Ballard Park displayed at National Parks Conference

Michael Howe and Susan Thibodeaux appointed to board

2001

Colleen McGrath hired as part time executive director

3rd Park Entrance created At Hazard & Wickham Roads

City of Newport regularly mows around the meadow

Colleen McGrath and Rick Nijadlik appointed to board

In December of 2001, Friends of Ballard Park partnered with City Year students and collected more than 20 large bags of trash, computer parts and bicycles from the quarry meadow. It was heartbreaking to see children get excited about

Advisory Committee for the second boardwalk. Instructors for the NACTC students were Ray Ferris and Rick Niejadlik. Mr. Niejadlik was a board member of Friends of Ballard Park.

Friends of Ballard Park hired Frank Amaral, another board member, to maintain trails in Ballard Park as the City of Newport only mowed in the quarry meadow. Park clean ups were also held with students from Salve Regina University and Rogers High School.

FBP decided that one way to combat underage drinking parties would be to introduce children to Ballard Park in a different manner: educational programs. The first program was held in summer 2002 when 42 children from the City of Newport's Teen Extreme program visited Ballard Park in four two-hour sessions in July and August. Board member and elementary school teacher Charlene Tuttle led the program which included fieldwork on adaptation and identification of birds and plant life; learning about predator/prey relationships and pollution and substance abuse prevention.

Children didn't play in the outdoors as they had in previous generations and many children didn't have access to forested areas. One of the Teen Extreme participants was over head saying "I don't know why I am here. Black people aren't supposed to be in the woods." Ms. Tuttle encouraged all of the participants to keep an open mind and embrace nature.



Susan Cooper director of Newport's Parks, Recreation & Tourism Department connected Colleen with Island Moving Company's executive director Dominique Alfandre in 2002 to discuss hosting a dance performance at Ballard Park.



Island Moving Company selected Ballard Park as one of three sites for its inaugural "Open for Dancing" which also celebrated the company's 20th anniversary. Held in September 2002, the company hosted a children's dance workshop in the quarry meadow and six performances by a community dance ensemble over the course

of the weekend. In addition to the choreography by Daniel McCusker, the performances included a choral group led by Christopher Eastburn and sculptures by Bob Rizzo. Two hundred seventy (270) people attended the performances.



The site-specific work was created over three days prior to the weekend. Mr. Rizzo was making sculptures utilizing branches from Ballard Park. On September 17th he took a break for lunch. When he returned all of the sculptures had been destroyed. He built new ones for the performances.

2002

1st Event – Open For
Dancing held in September
270 attendees

Summer Education
Program launched
42 participants

Frank Amaral provides
regular maintenance along
trails paid for by FBP

Boardwalks installed
on loop trail

Peter J. O'Neill and
Charlene Tuttle join FBP
board

2003

1st Annual Ballard Park
Pumpkin Tour held
2,000 attendees

Summer program partners
increase - 102 participants

Management Plan
commissioned

Sign installed at corner of
Hazard & Wickham Roads

NACTC students install
another 180 foot of
boardwalks

Bus Stop removed

Neighborhood Coyote
Problem

www.ballardpark.org
launches

NACTC Photo Exhibit

John Grosvenor, Mary Ellen
Grosvenor and Brian
Kuchar join board

2003

In 2003, a management plan was commissioned with Mapping and Planning Services and The Conservation Agency, both of Jamestown, at a cost of \$8,300. In October FBP received a grant from the Prince Charitable Trust for the development and execution of the management plan. Local historian Phillip Connell provides a myriad of information about the site's former use as a working quarry and ownership.

Underage drinking parties continued to be a problem. In March 2003, Board member Rick Niejadlik relayed that there were a lot of parties at Ballard Park over the previous few weekends; one with 125 kids from Newport, Middletown, Portsmouth, North Kingston and Providence in attendance. On March 28th Newport Police made arrests and found a couple of kegs in Ballard Park. One student was taken to the hospital for intoxication. In May 2003 another student was left passed out with his shoe laces tied together in the meadow. He was transported to the hospital. That spring the Parks Department shares the key to Ballard Park with Police Department so they have easier access during patrols.

In an effort to engage Rogers High School students, FBP starts a Youth Board with Honors Students with the help of advisor Christie Cykert. Students met and discussed ways they might increase positive use of Ballard Park. Youth board members were Molly Faerber, Allie Gardiner, Meredith Shepherd and Melissa Carrasquillo. FBP's board also decides to host events to engage the public in positive activities.

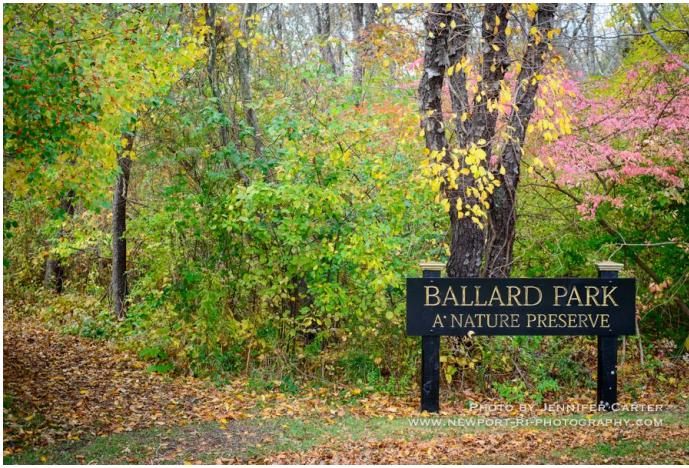


On April 25th, Lee Schisler (seen photo left), director of the Audubon Society of Rhode Island brings a couple of owls to the Rogers High School auditorium for a presentation followed by an 'owl prow' in Ballard Park. Thirty people turn out for the event. A May bird walk led by Charles Avenengo is attended by six people. A few dozen people attend a nature walk by Larry Taft on July 31st.

On May 28th there was a photo exhibit at the Newport Area Career & Technical Center on the Rogers High School campus of nature photographs of Ballard Park. Friends of Ballard Park secured a \$500 donation from Newport Federal Savings Bank for prizes and awarded \$1,000 to the class to cover costs associated with a course David Connell led to capture Ballard Park throughout the year. The students photographed the park during different times of day and chose several of their photos for display in a public exhibit. The exhibit included botanical imagery and research identifying the plants. Winners were Megan McGuire (1st place); Vanessa Walsh (2nd place) and Meg Nelson (3rd place).

FBP's educational offerings expanded. Rogers High School science teacher Scott Dickison uses Ballard Park for outdoor environmental lessons and to create field guides. Three organizations visit Ballard Park for summer field trips. Island Arts co-hosted a week long "Photography in Nature" program while children from the Salvation Army and City of Newport's Teen Extreme program took nature-related field trips to Ballard Park. FBP secured grant funding from several sources including \$2,000 provided by BankNewport; \$2,000 from The Newport County Fund and \$900 provided by Newport Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force.

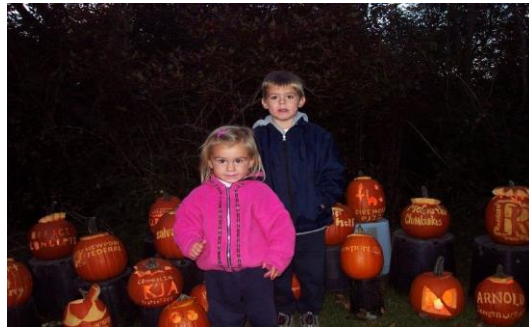




A new black, mahogany entry sign was installed on June 26, 2003 at the corner of Hazard & Wickham Roads. It read BALLARD PARK A Nature Preserve in gold letters.

Amaral Landscaping continued to provide landscaping at a discounted rate paid for by Friends of Ballard Park and park clean ups were held with Salve Regina University and Rogers High School students. Students at the NACTC on the Rogers High School campus constructed another 180 foot of boardwalk with a grant from RI DEM's Trails and Advisory

Committee in the amount of \$1,200 helping to cover the costs of the installation and materials.



In October 2003, Friends of Ballard Park held its first large scale-event: the 1st Annual Ballard Park Pumpkin Tour. FBP secured sponsorships from a variety of local businesses to purchase pumpkins. Colleen McGrath and her father, Tom, delivered 700 pumpkins to schools and organizations for pumpkin carving parties. Participants included the Salvation Army After School Program, YMCA After School Program, Sullivan School Family Center, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center, Newport Community School, Newport Area Career & Technical Center and Boys & Girls Club. Students from the NACTC carved sponsors' logos onto pumpkins as part of a lesson on logos in their graphic design class. The event was a huge success with 2,000 attendees. The next day at the clean-up, Colleen McGrath noted her surprise at the turnout and how she would have been excited if 200 people turned up. Board member Mary Hayes said she hadn't thought the event was a good idea so she was also pleased with the turnout. At a meeting at the Police Station the next day, the receptionist told Colleen that numerous people were calling to ask "where is Ballard Park?". The event definitely put Ballard Park on people's radar.



2004

In September of 2003, neighbor Diana Prince had contacted Friends of Ballard Park with concerns about coyotes in the park. Her dog was missing and presumed eaten by a coyote. FBP organized a talk on coyotes at the Newport Public Library on April 27, 2004. A panel of experts discussed what the public could do to keep their pets safe and gave information about coyotes. Seventy-five (75) people attended including Newport City Councilor Kate Leonard and a representative from US Senator Chafee's office, Connie Keogh.

In celebration of Earth Day, Rogers High School science teacher, Scott Dickison, brought three of his biology classes to Ballard Park to clean out garbage. Two hundred pounds of garbage was removed including bottles, metal pipes and a bike.

Friends of Ballard Park continued to host events in an effort to get the public to use Ballard Park in a positive manner. Naturalist Charles Avenengo volunteered to host a bird walk in May and a nature walk in July. FBP hired Sarah Mermin to teach a yoga class in the quarry meadow which was well attended with 15 participants. Another dozen women took part in a belly dancing class led by Katherine Carbone on August 17th.



Friends of Ballard Park hosted summer field trips for children enrolled at the Salvation Army

Summer Camp and City of Newport's Teen Extreme program in July and August. Ninety-three (93) children participated in the program. An after-school program at the Newport Community School (at Thompson Middle School) entitled "Nature in Newport" was also offered. Frank Amaral designed the program which featured weekly visits to local places like Ballard Park, Cardines Field and Peckham Brothers Quarry. Five boys enrolled.

The underage parties continued. In July a log was found smoldering, beer cans littered the meadow and a port-a-potty was destroyed when the Teen Extreme program toured the park for their program. FBP made sure to have educators arrive an hour prior to all future programs to make a walk-through of the site, report any problems and prep the space.



Island Moving Company held a September 23rd Baroque Cello Concert and performance in the quarry meadow. Board member Mike Howe and his wife, Natalia, graciously offered to host a cocktail party fundraiser at their Ocean Heights home immediately afterwards. It was attended by seventy people including Carol Ballard and the dancers from Island Moving Company who led an impromptu dance and later jumped into the pool.

More than 3,200 people turned out for the 2nd Annual Ballard Park Pumpkin Tour in October.

Regular trail maintenance provided by Amaral Landscaping and paid for by Friends of Ballard Park continued in 2004. The City of Newport also provides trash pickup and maintenance of the meadow. A large path was mowed in the middle of the grass to encourage park goers to walk through the tall grassland.

2004

3,374 Event Attendees

93 Summer Field Trip Students

Workshop on Coyotes coordinated and hosted by Friends of Ballard Park

Path mowed through middle of meadow tall grass

Graffiti removed from rock face

Port-A-Potty rented for summer – continually flipped over and painted

Yoga Classes held

MIsl Narcizo joins board



Charlie Ridolf and a crew from the City of Newport's public works departments removed large patches of graffiti from the rock face by climbing the quarry wall.

Friends of Ballard Park rented a port-a-potty which was placed near the Hazard Road entry. It was routinely flipped over and graffitied throughout the summer. FBP worked with the Juvenile Hearing Board and some youth who were caught at parties in Ballard Park were sentenced to community service in Ballard Park. Park clean ups were also held with Salve Regina University and Rogers High School students.

2005

In addition to the regular maintenance he continued to provide, Mr. Amaral secured donations of eighteen yards of screened loam for the Hazard Road entrance valued at \$400 from JAM Construction and Ralph Cawley of RJ Cawley to use his back hoe to spread the loam and move debris onto Japanese bamboo (\$400 donation) in 2005.



During 2005 clean ups in Ballard Park, a large pudding stone was discovered by Frank Amaral who cleared the area around it. The pudding stone will later become a major stop for geology field trips as Ballard Park is home to all three rock types: igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary. "Mini environments" are also created in the quarry meadow to highlight features like a grove of quaking aspen, meadow and vernal pond.

Newport's electrical inspector, Richard Newman, approached FBP executive director Colleen McGrath about having electricity installed in the park and secured donations of materials and time. In August of 2005, Frank Toner of Toner Electric installs a 50 amp service in an electrical box located at the corner of Hazard & Wickham Roads. The donated services total more than \$2,300.



On May 14 naturalist Charles Avenengo organized a team for the Audubon Society's Annual Birdathon. He and his team which included his son, Hugo, spotted 44 birds in Ballard Park.

The large mahogany sign installed at the corner of Hazard & Wickham Road was stolen on June 8th. Traffic lights were tossed over the quarry's edge and found smashed in the meadow. New graffiti tags were removed from the quarry wall by the City of Newport. Police made a number of arrests at Ballard Park on April 20th for a "420" party. Sadly, a 5th Ward resident hung himself in the woods of the park in September.

On June 11, 2005, FBP hosted Newport Tree Warden Scott Wheeler for a Tree Talk which twelve people attended.

In an effort to promote the park to the public, FBP put together a booth on June 24-26 at the Newport Flower Show. Frank Amaral and Liz Stouffer brought beautiful plants to decorate the booth. Linda Lee Butler organized a team of volunteers to man the booth where notecards featuring scenes of Ballard Park were sold and information about the organization was distributed.

One June 30th, FBP hosted its 1st Annual Ballard Park Unplugged. Seven groups performed throughout Ballard Park and the public was



invited to meander through the trails stopping at various points to listen to music. Honey's Child Gospel Ministries had a large group singing in the meadow. Margie Quinn helped to book the group.

Rogers High School Survey

A survey to measure student use and perceptions of

Ballard Park and identify activities and events that might engage them in positive park activities was distributed at Rogers High School during a home room period in June 2005. Results were tabulated by representatives from Salve Regina University.

2005

2,229 Event Attendees

59 Summer Field Trip Participants

Survey given to Rogers High School students to measure park use and perceptions

Electric box installed

JAM Construction donates 18 yards of screened loam

RJ Cawley donates use of backhoe

Large puddingstone discovered

Suicide in the forest

Wickham Road sign stolen

1st Annual Ballard Park Unplugged held

Heavy flooding the week before the Pumpkin Tour but 1,300 attend

Paul Geremia gives concert in meadow

Linda Lee Butler, Meg Edenbach and Jill Spear join board

There were 307 respondents to the survey. A majority, 191 students or 62.2%, of respondents indicated they had been to Ballard Park. Survey results showed that park use peaked in the 11th Grade and there was a significant spike in those who had and had not visited the park between freshmen and sophomore years.

Friday and Saturday nights were peak hours for park use (8 pm to 12 am). The majority of students who had been to Ballard Park indicated they went there “to drink/ party” (39.79%). More innocuous answers that had the potential to be of concern were the second top answer among park users at 37.17%. These included “go there with friends” and “hang out”. “RHS Classroom activities” were third at 20.94% but “Smoking” was a close fourth at 18.32%.

Students clearly saw themselves as the biggest user group of Ballard Park. “Teenagers for parties, drinking” topped the responses with a 27.69% response rate for question 9 which asked survey takers to identify who uses Ballard Park the most and why are they there. Rounding out the top three answers were “Skip School” at 16.14% and “Smoking” at 15.54%. In fact, the top three answers accounted for 59.37% of all responses. Other fill in answers including “sex/rape”, “drug use”, “cocaine/ sex”, “parties”, and “people hanging out” brought the negative responses up to 60.9%. The second category of uses were positive in nature but prohibited park activities of Paintball (11.16%) and Rock Climbing (4.58%). Rogers High School Classroom Activities scored slightly below Nature enthusiasts/ birdwatchers with 8.37% and 10.36, respectively.



Friends of Ballard Park continued its educational offerings in summer 2005. Fifty-nine (59) children from Salvation Army Summer Camp, Island Arts, and Teen Extreme program visited the park in July and August.

Yoga classes were also held in July with a smaller turnout than the previous year. An August 2nd belly dancing class with Katherine Carbone was held and an August 9th herb walk led by Clara Morgan attracted a handful of attendees.



On August 19th well-known blues singer and acoustic guitarist Paul Geremia gave a concert in the quarry meadow. Eddy Marandola hosted a fundraiser immediately following the concert at his estate on Brenton Road, Wyndham.

Island Moving Company held a mini Open for Dancing Event that included a baroque cello concert in the meadow. Afterwards guests attended a fundraiser for both organizations at the home of William and Lowie Crisp, 1 Ocean Heights Road.



In October FBP hosted the 3rd Annual Ballard Park Pumpkin Tour which 1,300 people attended. Turnout was lower than previous tours due to the heavy rain that week. There was heavy flooding after eight straight days of rain. Chris Coen pumped water covering the boardwalk to another area. Thankfully the weather cleared late in the afternoon in time for the event.

2006

The parties continued into 2006 and Friends of Ballard Park routinely contacted members of the Newport Police Department to check on the park. A clawfoot tub was found in the quarry in December 2006 and graffiti continued to appear on the quarry wall, often with the tag “5W”.



FBP had been considering winter events it might host. Colleen saw the opening of LaSalette on television and thought it would be a good event to try at Ballard Park. She purchased lights on sale after Christmas and the 1st Annual Illuminated Garden was held in February 2006. Three hundred (300) people attended the event which featured lights displayed in the quarry meadow and luminaries lining the trail into the park. Most

attendees heard about the event through Winter Festival marketing.

FBP held its first board retreat in April 2006. An events committee was formed to review proposed activities hosted by Friends of Ballard Park. The board also voted to move paying Colleen McGrath from an hourly rate as a freelancer to payroll with taxes withheld. An office and storage room were rented at the Audrain Building to serve as FBP’s office at \$165/month and Kelley Coen and Corrie Van Reuth were hired as part-time event staff. The Ballards purchased computers for the new office and Carol purchased a Donor Perfect software package so FBP could better track its contributions.

On May 17, 2006 a replacement sign with more secure bolts was installed at Hazard & Wickham Roads. Mr. Amaral provided maintenance and clean ups were held with Rogers High School and Salve Regina University students.



FBP hosts its first school field trips at the request of Valerie Druken, school nurse at nearby Underwood School. Sixty-six elementary aged students visited Ballard Park.

Two hundred people turned out for the 2nd Annual Ballard Park Unplugged and as many came for a second concert by Paul Geremia in July. Nineteen people attended

a July yoga class.

Friends of Ballard Park partnered with five organizations during the months of July and August 2006 to provide outdoor and art programming to children ranging in age from five to fifteen. Fifty-nine children visited Ballard Park in a field trip-style manner in sessions which

2006

4,055 Event Attendees

174 Field Trip
Participants

Mission Statement
Revised

1st Annual Illuminated
Garden held in February

1st Board Retreat
April 2006

Office Rented in
Audrain Building

Part-time event staff
hired (Corrie Van Reuth
and Kelley Coen)

Wickham Road sign
replaced

1st School Field Trip
held with
Underwood Elementary
66 students

MOVIES ON THE ROCKS
launches

Famed blues singer
Paul Geremia performs
at Ballard Park

complimented their organizations program. Teachers used team building activities, crafts projects, literacy-based lessons and the natural setting of Ballard Park to promote healthy alternatives while pointing out the negative effects of underage drinking, smoking and substance abuse. Surveys conveyed teens who had participated in the Summer Educational Series had different perceptions than they did several years ago. Ten percent of respondents from the Teen Extreme group in 2003 indicated Ballard Park was used for drinking beer while the top answer for 2006's participants was to learn.



In celebration of its 10th anniversary, FBP launched its MOVIES ON THE ROCKS series (thanks Thomas Palmer for the title!) in August 2006. The series would not have been possible without the generosity of sponsors Ballard Exploration Company, Inc., Houlihan, Managhan & Kyle LLP and Stagecraft Sound & Lighting. Reminiscent of summer nights at the drive-in, the film series encouraged movie goers to bring a picnic dinner and enjoy a lovely walk into the quarry meadow along the trails of the park which were lined with tiki torches. Three movies were shown. Twenty people came to see *Jurassic Park*, 75 for *Madagascar* and in September 50 people turned out

for *The Blair Witch Project*. The short *Camera Obscura* which featured several scenes filmed in Ballard Park was shown before the main feature films. The film was made by local students who worked with Rocco Michaluk of Video and Vision.

FBP also hosted a concert by Michael Walsh & What the Cat Dragged In in August. A fixture on the Newport music scene for over 25 years, Walsh along with bandmates Brian Schopfer and Jay White played two sets of their original, eclectic music to a crowd of seventy-five on a beautiful summer evening. The concert was briefly interrupted when a couple of kids unplugged the extension cord running from the power panel down the quarry wall. Frank Dwyer from Stagecraft Sound & Lighting provided heavy duty, twist lock cables for future concerts to avoid this problem.



FBP's August event calendar also included pilates classes (11 attendees) and an herb walk with five attendees.

Held on Saturday, October 14, 2006, the 4th Annual Ballard Park Pumpkin Tour was another huge success with over 1,300 jack-o-lanterns lining the trails of Ballard Park and nearly 3,100 tour goers. Once again sponsorships purchased by local business owners allowed Friends of Ballard Park to buy pumpkins which were delivered to schools and social service agencies the first two weeks of October. In 2006 pumpkins were delivered to every Newport public school as well as the Boys & Girls Club of Newport County, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center and Child & Family Services. Friends of Ballard Park received terrific feedback from representatives in the schools, many of whom cited the after school pumpkin carving parties were the best attended parent- student events of the school year. For the first time, art students at Rogers High School carved pumpkins. Students observed classmates who rarely participated in

activities excited to carve a design into their pumpkin. Students enrolled in the gifted art class as well as the NACTC graphics class carved logos onto sponsors, pumpkins. One youngster, Aidan Brown, was allegedly hit by a branch at the Pumpkin Tour. His parents filed a suit against Friends of Ballard Park and the City of Newport which FBP's insurance company settled. Terrific weather encouraged an impromptu carving party which many neighborhood children enjoyed while volunteers set up the 32 displays along Ballard Parks loop trail. The Newport Fire Department was on site promoting fire safety. Captain Patrick Carney said more people toured the fire safety trailer that evening than any past event the NFD attended.



2007

The 2nd Annual Illuminated Garden was held on Friday, February 23rd and Saturday February 24, 2007. Close to five hundred people attended the free event which featured a dazzling display of lights in the quarry meadow of Ballard Park. Thousands of lights were strung in the park's trees by City of Newport arborist Charlie Ridolf, Frank Amaral and tree climbers from Bartlett Tree Experts on Thursday and Friday. When the ground thawed a crew from the City of Newport's Parks Department led by Bob Oakley

was quick to the scene with mulch for the Hazard Road entrance trail. Volunteers from Salve Regina University lined and lit over two hundred paper luminaries along the trail leading event goers into the quarry meadow.

Whimsical displays in the meadow included disco pond, rainbow forest, tiki torch trail and the vortex. Stagecraft Audio shined gobo lights on the face of the quarry wall to create sunbursts of stars and Barney Webster of Nelumbo Water Gardens created large ice disks which hung from trees on Saturday evening. The event was sponsored by National Grid, Stagecraft Audio, Houlihan, Managhan & Kyle LLC, Bartlett Trees and Ballard Exploration Company.

In April 2007, a stewardship committee formed to implement recommendations from the Management Plan. Meetings were held to discuss various projects which included removing invasives from the vernal pond in the quarry meadow. Stewardship committee members were Frank Amaral, Meg Edenbach, Brigid Finn, Colleen McGrath, Katie Parent, Lauren Parmelee and Jill Spear. Colleen McGrath also made a walk-through of the park with a specialist from the Audubon Society to discuss whether or not invasives should be removed from the adjacent 54 acres. FBP was advised to let the area be as it was growing as a natural forest.

2007

6,229 Event Attendees

297 Field Trip
Participants

Stewardship Committee
formed

NACTC students build
and install two sheds in
meadow for event and
educational storage

Trail Map Created by
Frank Amaral

Field Trip program
expanded to all Newport
elementary schools

1st Annual Molly Finn
Battle of the Bands
attracts 750 attendees

Ballard Park named one
of "Seven Wonders of
Newport County" by
Newport Daily News
reader poll

Eddy Marandola hosts
fundraiser for FBP

Matt Plumb, Peggy
Richmond and Fran
Slutsky join board

FBP continued its relationships with the Newport Area Career & Technical Center on the Rogers High School campus. Students built and installed two sheds in the quarry meadow to hold educational and event supplies. And, in 2008, the students built kiosks for new trail signs under the direction of instructor Brian Ferreira. The signs were funded by neighbors William and Lowie Crisp, RI Trails Advisory Committee and the Aquidneck Island Land Trust. They featured a map of the park drawn by Frank Amaral using a map schematic created by Mapping and Planning Services and descriptions of the various trails and features of Ballard Park. The stewardship committee helped to name all of the trails in the park.



In the Spring of 2007, Friends of Ballard Park launched a new educational initiative for elementary school students. Each of the five Newport elementary schools received a menu of lessons which complimented topics children studied in their KITES Science programs. A part-time educator served as an on-site teacher who met classes at the park and served as a guide to facilitate lessons. There was no cost to participate in the program and four of the city's five elementary schools participated with 213 children, a little more than 20% of the public school elementary population touring Ballard Park on field trips.

Lauren Parmelee began documenting the birds of Ballard Park. She and volunteers counted 32 species of birds overhead and 17 nesting in Ballard Park.

Friends of Ballard Park held events every other week during the Summer of 2007. The season kicked off with the 3rd Annual Ballard Park Unplugged on June 28th. Seven different musical groups played for two hours as people strolled through Ballard Park. The Ancient Order of Hibernians Bagpipe & Drum Corp made a special appearance marching from the Rogers High School parking lot into the Quarry Meadow where Community Baptist Church's gospel choir Voices United in Praise were performing. Children had fun interacting with the musicians. LeRoy White had them drumming, Mike Cellemme was creating songs with them and Mary King had them playing the harp. Classical oboist Jane Murray greeted guests at the entrance across from Rogers High School and Whistlin' Dixie performed below the large maple tree while



The Bob Kendall Band had event goers rocking along the loop trail.

Paul Geremia was back for his third performance as part of Ballard Park's Summer Concert series. The famed blues singer opened the series on Thursday, July 12th. Several new groups also performed in the park. Hundreds of children turned out for a concert by the interactive Toe Jam Puppet Band. The trio had children marching through the quarry meadow, partaking in a puppet show and giggling with delight in a wonderful morning performance on July 26th.



Later that day members of the public and children enrolled in Friends of Ballard Parks Summer educational program took in a performance by the impressive, Bronx-based KIPP String & Rhythm Orchestra. The Orchestra, which played at venues such as Carnegie Hall and Harlem's World Famous Apollo Theater, performed songs familiar to area youth like the theme from Star Wars. During the intermission orchestra members participated in a question and answer session with children from the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center.



Friends of Ballard Park (FBP) had tried for several years to create a youth board to connect with high school students and young adults, many of whom used the park for underage drinking parties. In 2005 some progress was made when FBP hired nineteen year old Molly Finn to work with area students. The group decided the first event they wanted to organize would be a Battle of the Bands featuring youth bands of various musical genres. Molly was particularly enthused about the event and recruited several of her musician friends to enter their bands. Sadly, in June 2006 the *Free Spirit*, a boat Molly was aboard as part of a transatlantic voyage, was lost at sea and efforts to organize the Battle of the Bands halted. Over the 2006 Christmas season, Molly's friends and family requested FBP host a Battle of the Bands in Molly's memory and volunteered to help organize the event on what would have been Molly's twenty first birthday. The event was open to area musicians young and young at heart. Held Saturday, July

28, 2007 the 1st Annual Molly Finn Battle of the Bands featured eleven bands with members ranging in age from 12 to 37 years old. The diversity in ages and musical genres drew more than 750 people to Ballard Park's Quarry Meadow for an afternoon of terrific entertainment.

The Connection Theme opened the day at 2 pm. Other competing bands included A City in Silence, Capital Vice, D.F.D., Fathom, Midnight Knife Fight, Mourning the Dead and Taken by the Tide. Bands were judged by a group of local musical celebrities including Dave Narcizo, DJ Butch, Jim Quinn, John Flanders, Kevin Sullivan, Michael O'Donnell, Jeff Barlow, Scott Rancourt and Patrick Downes. While the judges scores were being tabulated, LeRoy White gave a performance which gave emcees Robert J. Sullivan and Kate Perrotti a chance to change into their formal wear. Marnie Jewell was driven to the stage in a gator to deliver



the sealed envelopes holding the winners names. Crowd favorite Bloody Knuckles was awarded first place. Peter & Ryan Meehan, Michael Collins and Charlie Shea won a Fall 2008 concert at the park, a day of recording time at Stable Sound Studio and a gift certificate from Salvation Cafe as part of their prize. Second place winners Vejadu received recording time at Brikhaus Studio on Broadway while the Apparition received a band head shot by Faith Dugan for third place honors. Generous sponsorships, donations and program advertising off-set costs associated with the event and funded the Fall concert. Seventy-five people volunteered at the event.



On July 28, 2007 the headline of *The Newport Daily News* was “The Seven Wonders of Your World” a story detailing the results of a reader poll which chose the Seven Wonders of Newport County. Ballard Park was one of the “beautiful, historic, intriguing or sentimental sites that enrich our area of the world” picked in the poll. Other sites included the famed Cliff Walk, Ocean Drive, Bellevue Avenue mansions and Old Stone Mill.

Friends of Ballard Park partnered with four organizations over the months of July and August 2007 to offer field-trip style programs to elementary and middle school aged youth. Seventy-five children visited Ballard Park to participate in environmental education and the Get Fit! Program customized by FBP educator Jill Reed. Program partners included the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center, the City of Newport’s Recreation Department’s Teen Extreme program, the Newport Community School and Child & Family Services residence program. Students were introduced to Ballard Park through scavenger hunts, interactive games, team building exercises, lessons and craft projects. A typical trip to the park might highlight a species of animals and offer a variety of activities around that animal. Approximately half of participants had not previously been to Ballard Park.

MOVIES ON THE ROCKS celebrated its second successful season in August 2007 with a new presenting sponsor — Kirby Perkins Construction. Three films were shown: one for younger children, another for teens and a third for adults but all had mass appeal: *Over the Hedge* (121 attendees), *Dr. No* (62 attendees) and *Pirates of the Caribbean 2: Dead Man’s Chest* (73 attendees).



On Friday, August 17th Eddy Marandola hosted a fundraiser for Friends of Ballard Park in the sunken gardens of his home, Wyndham. Mike Walsh & What the Cat Dragged In provided entertainment and McGrath Clambakes, Inc. catered the event which also featured a silent auction.

Friends of Ballard Park presented two concerts in September 2007. Members of the Bob Kendall Band kindly volunteered their time for a free concert on September 6th. Local singer/song writer Bob Kendall performed his songs with band members Dave Narcizo on drums, Dylan

Roy on bass, guitarist Chuck Ciany and keyboardist/guitarist Kevin Zahm. On September 15th over three hundred youngsters turned out to hear Bloody Knuckles, winners of the 1st Annual Molly Finn Battle of the Bands. Made up of local teenagers, the self-described classic rock cover band included vocalist Ryan Meehan, Mike Collins on drums, Peter Meehan on guitar, Charlie Shea on guitar and Tyler Haas on bass.

Invasive understory was cleared from the northwest corner of the quarry meadow exposing a large boulder and more of the quarry wall. Rotting boardwalk planks were repaired.

The 5th Annual Ballard Park Pumpkin Tour was held on Saturday, October 13, 2007. It was, by



far, the best attended with over 3,700 people partaking in the most dazzling display of pumpkins ever shown along the trails of Newport's Only Nature Preserve. Pumpkins were delivered the first and second weeks of October to Newport public schools and social service agencies. Students in the Newport Area Career & Technical Center's graphic program and Rogers High School art classes carved all of the sponsors logos onto pumpkins. Sponsorships allowed Friends of Ballard Park to purchase pumpkins for local school children and underwrite the cost of the event. People began

arriving a little after 4 pm to tour the park. By 6 pm there was a line of people that wound its way to Hazard Road waiting to take in the 34 display areas filled with pumpkins. In addition to cunning jack-o-lanterns, this year's tour included many elaborately and creatively carved pumpkins. With Fire Prevention Week's theme of "Practice Your Escape Plan!" it was fitting to have Newport Fire Department's Fire Prevention Trailer at the event. Children enjoyed touring the smoke-filled trailer and learning to 'stop, drop and roll'.

2008

An Educational Committee formed in early 2008 under the direction of board member Karin Liiv to develop a five-year strategic plan with the goal of having every Newport Public School student participate in an educational program at Ballard Park at least once over the course of the school year. Committee members included Amy MacMillan, Colleen McGrath, Jane Perry, Jill Reed and Charlene Tuttle. Beth Copely, Lauren MacGruder, Heather Strout, Myles Murray and Jessica Thomas would join the committee in the following years.



The 3rd Annual Illuminated Garden was held on Saturday, February 23, 2008. Friday night's Illumination was canceled due to a winter blizzard but the blanket of snow received that day added an ethereal affect to the display of lights in Ballard Park's quarry meadow. Students at Rogers High School and Underwood Elementary School created sculptures for the event. RHS students created packing tape sculptures which were lit with LED lights and strung from trees in the Hazard Road entry. Underwood Elementary School students created ice sculptures with Barney Webster of Nelumbo Water Gardens on the school's campus. They individualized their disks with food coloring and items found from nature such as leaves, acorns and sticks. Once the disks froze they were hung in trees at the park. Close to four hundred people attended the free event which also featured displays of luminaries, LED lights, strands of Christmas tree lights, spot lights, Chinese lanterns, tiki torches and gobo lights in unique displays like "Rainbow Forest", Chinatown, "Rock Stars", "Disco Pond" and "the Vortex".

The displays took several days to create. Lights and sculptures were hung in the trees by professional tree climbers from Bartlett Tree Experts, City of Newport arborist Charlie Ridolf and local landscaper Frank Amaral. On Saturday afternoon volunteers from Salve Regina University lined the entry way and small grass island on Hazard Road with hundreds of luminaries (candles in paper bags) attracting passersby to the event.

The board of FBP updated the organization's mission statement in April 2008:

Friends of Ballard Park is dedicated to protecting, maintaining and promoting Newport's Only Nature Preserve. Its goals are to ensure Ballard Park remains a wild and natural open space for future generations; encourage the local public to visit and use the park; provide educational and cultural opportunities for local youth and families and highlight the unique qualities and historical importance of Ballard Park.



In April of 2008, Friends of Ballard Park sent a menu of field trip lessons to teachers in Newport's elementary schools which complimented their science curriculums on ecosystems, bio diversity and life science. Friends of Ballard Park's educator Jill Reed served as a guide for all trips to Ballard Park. In an effort to offer the optimal field trip experience, Mrs. Reed made visits to participating teachers' classrooms prior to each field trip to meet students, tell them what they could expect and get them excited about their trip to Ballard Park. A survey was taken to measure students' perceptions and use of the park as well.

Two hundred thirty-five children from three of Newport's five elementary schools visited Ballard Park. Students participated in a variety of activities from catching bugs and presenting information on what insect they'd found to playing educational games like "Oh Deer" which illustrates the effects of population control to hikes and scavenger hunts which better acclimated the youth to the park. The majority of respondents to a post visit survey indicated they would like to "explore the park more" or "look for animals or bugs" when asked what they would like to do when they returned to Ballard Park.

2008

6,060 Event Attendees

327 Field Trip
Participants

Carol & Les Ballard host
a fundraiser for FBP at
Holly House

Education Committee
forms and develops five
year strategic plan

Mission Statement
Revised

Father's Day Amazing
Race held

First 'off-island' field trip
held when students from
Jamestown's Melrose
Elementary visit Ballard
Park

Open for Dancing
returns to Ballard Park

Removal of purple loose
strife from the vernal
pond begins

Karin Liiv and Colleen
Quinn join FBB board



Carol & Les Ballard hosted a fundraiser for Friends of Ballard Park on May 31st at Holly House, their home on Berkeley Avenue. The event featured lovely wine from Les Ballard's wine cellar, music by the MSD Jazz Quintet, food by McGrath Clambakes, Inc. and a silent auction with donations from many local businesses.

The 2008 Summer Event Season kicked off on June 15th with a new event created with Eastern Mountain Sports of Middletown. The Father's Day Amazing Race Scavenger Hunt melded aspects of a traditional scavenger hunt with elements of the popular reality television show *The Amazing Race* where participants must finish challenges before they are awarded their next clue. Teams of three to five people competed for prizes awarded by EMS. Winners were The Mason Family of Old Saybrook, Connecticut.

Friends of Ballard Park's popular Unplugged event was held on Thursday, June 26th and featured six groups playing simultaneously along the trails of the park's 13 acres with a special appearance by the Ancient Order of Hibernians Bagpipe & Drum Corp. Musicians performing a variety of genres ensured a nice sized crowd at the event. Event goers meandered along the trails to take in musicians like Doin' Time, Jane Murray on classical oboe, Mary King on Celtic Harp and Phil Edmunds on tin whistle, performance poet and guitarist Mike Cellemme and the Dixieland trio Whistlin' Dixie.

Three terrific concerts attracted 450 people to Ballard Park plus another 90+ for the KIPP Concert. MUSIC MONTH opened on July 10th with Jim McGrath and the Reprobates - Jim Bennett and Fud Benson — playing their special brand of ballads and sea shanties. On July 24th over three hundred turned out for a performance by the Toe Jam Puppet Band. Children had a ball singing, dancing and running around the quarry meadow with the group. Heavy rain began as the last of our equipment was packed up after the Toe Jam Puppet Band concert and continued most of the afternoon so we moved the KIPP String & Rhythm Orchestra Concert to Schanil Hall at Gooseberry Beach. The concert showcased an amazing group of eighth graders from the Bronx.

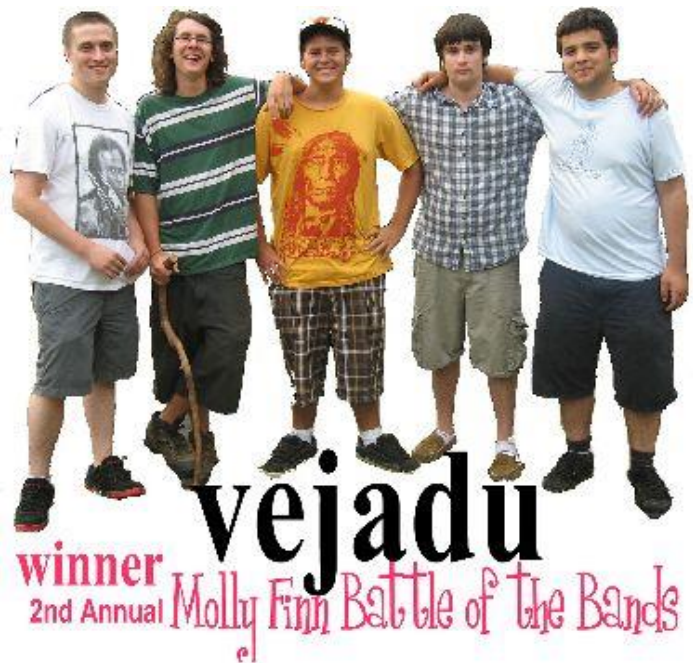
Despite the horrible weather conditions and last minute change in location, we had a nice turnout of close to one hundred people for the event which included lovers of classical music as well as families with young children. What made this event even more special was the opportunity to host sixty-five students for the day. The youth were delighted to skip a day of school (those

enrolled in the KIPP Academy attend classes year-round) to spend an afternoon at the beach. Educators from FBP planned an agenda of games, team building exercises and some free time so the kids could swim. Students then enjoyed a cookout prepared by Tom McGrath. Concert goers were not only touched by the talent of the students but by their dedication and impeccable manners.



Friends of Ballard Park, Soma Yoga and the City of Newport's Recreation Department collaborated again in Summer 2008 to host Yoga Classes in Ballard Park on Tuesday evenings during the month of July. The classes were taught by Patti Confort and drew the largest attendance in the program's history.

Competition was steep at the 2nd Annual Molly Finn Battle of the Bands Saturday, July 19th, 2008. Eight bands vied for recording time at local studios. They were cheered on by more than 550 event attendees. Newport-based Vejadu took first place. As part of their prize, Julian Ciany, Fritz Drayton, Sam Moehrke and Teddy Nabozny were awarded a concert in Spring 2009 at Ballard Park and received a full day of recording time with engineer Steve Rizzo at Stable Sound Studio in Portsmouth, RI. This was the band's second appearance at the Molly Finn Battle of the Bands — they received second place in 2007. Surf guitar band Cliffs & Bangers nabbed second place. Other competitors included Anertia, Phil N Crew, Off Target, Bloody Knuckles, Sidewinder and The Mike Irving Band. The panel of judges included Jim Quinn, booker at the Newport Blues Cafe, musician Mark Quinn, Brikhaus Studio owner Scott Rancourt, musician Kate Dutton, *Newport Mercury* reporter Matt Keefer and musician and budding sound technician Ollie Amerigian. Dozens of volunteers ensured the day ran smoothly. New this year was the "Kid's Corner" where little ones could have their face painted and participate in various activities like hula hooping, bubble blowing and sun printing. Also new this year was an exhibition of artwork created by Rogers High School students under the direction of teacher Barbara Wunderler. Students created sculptures made from recycled materials of musical related items like guitars, musical notes and microphones. Students also painted banners of people dancing which were hung in the quarry meadow. After emcees Kate Perrotti and Bob Sullivan announced the winners, local drummer LeRoy White closed the event with a drumming circle.



Ninety-four (94) students ranging in age from five to fourteen visited Ballard Park in 'field trip-style' sessions during July and August 2008. The participants varied from those who paid full tuition to those who received full scholarships from our partnering organizations. The partnering organizations were The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center, Newport Community School, Child & Family Services and The City of Newport.

MOVIES ON THE ROCKS once again sponsored by Kirby Perkins Construction featured three film screenings in Ballard Park's Quarry Meadow. The series kicked off on August 7th with the animated film *Surf's Up* which was enjoyed by 175 people. The 1980's classic *The Goonies*

followed on August 21st and was the most popular of the series with 222 attendees. Last up with *Austin Powers* on September 5th.



Forty-six students from Jamestown's Melrose Elementary School took a field trip to Ballard Park in the fall of 2008. This was the first 'off island' school to take a field trip to Ballard Park. Their program focused on the environment and habitat. In order to accommodate the larger group size, the classes were split into four smaller groups rotating through stations. FBP staff taught two stations and Melrose teachers taught two.

Ballard Park was selected by Island Moving Company as one of three sites for Open for Dancing 2008. Nationally known choreographer Nikki Carrara worked with members of the public

to create a dance in the quarry meadow which was then performed for audiences three times on Saturday, September 20th and Sunday, September 21st. The community dancers ranged from those with no experience to people who had been dancing their entire lives. Artist Katie McManus Wynne created the sculptures at Ballard Park's performance of "Hive".



Attendance at the Pumpkin Tour continued to climb with 4,500 people taking in the 1,200 pumpkins on Saturday, October 18, 2008. Preparation began weeks in advance and things really got busy two weeks before when Tom McGrath and Colleen McGrath delivered 700 pumpkins to area schools and organizations. "The pumpkins are here!" was a frequent chant heard as the McGrath's pulled up in the truck. Informal polls in schools indicated 80% of children had never carved a jack-o-lantern before participating in this year's activity.

About a half an hour prior to the opening, the public began to enter the park. By 4:35 138 people had already walked through the displays. Children also enjoyed touring the Newport Fire Department's Fire Prevention Trailer where they learned to "stop, drop and roll" in the event of a fire.

In December 2008, 70% of the purple loose strife in the vernal pond was removed by Barney Webster of Nelumbo Water Gardens. The remainder was removed in November 2009.

2009

The 4th Annual Illuminated Garden was held on Friday, February 20 and Saturday, February 21, 2009 from 6 to 9 pm in the Quarry Meadow of Ballard Park.



A terrific crew of tree climbers turned out a few days earlier to begin setting up displays. Frank Amaral, Paul Keefe, “Tree Fairy” Dave Renzi, Charlie Ridolf plus Ken and Jose from Bartlett Tree Experts created many of the displays before wintery weather rolled in. Students from Rogers High School made sculptures for the event which were lit with LED lights. Packing tape sculptures in the shapes of a Chinese Dragon, caterpillar, ducks and lady bugs were set up alongside flowers made from recycled bags and wire. There was even a packing tape DJ spinning tunes

from a DJ booth created by one student with disco balls flying from tree branches above it. Girl Scouts from Camp Mittens created tin can luminaries.

More than 700 people turned out to tour the event — which was more than double the previous year’s attendance. Paper bag luminaries lined the back entrance to the park and as event goers made the bend, many were heard to gasp “wow” or “look at that” as displays like Francisco Falls, the Gummi Worm Tree, Rainbow Forest, Chinatown, Disco Pond, Area 51 and Tiki Torch Trail came into view. Sponsors included Ballard Exploration Company, National Grid, Stagecraft Sound & Lighting, CAT Entertainment Services and Bartlett Tree Experts.

As part of its educational strategic plan, FBP staff met with representatives from various schools to see how it might fulfill their needs. A geology program was requested by Jackie Naspo, assistant super intendent at Newport Public Schools. FBP hired geologist Amy Wright in the Spring of 2009 to identify the rock locations and develop lessons for local school children. Ms. Wright determined that all three rock types (igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary) were found in Ballard Park as the point of where Newport Granite and the Price Neck formation met. This information along with rock ID sheets and the history of the site as a working quarry made for interesting geology field trip offerings.

FBP’s educational committee set a goal of having 15 classes visit the park during the 2008-9 school year. Sixteen classes were scheduled. Two cancelled due to bad weather. Fourteen classes from six schools participated in the field trip program. Participating schools included five Newport elementary schools (Carey, Coggeshall, Cranston Calvert, Sullivan and Underwood) in the Spring and Jamestown’s Melrose School in the Fall (of 2008). One hundred eighty-three students took part in environmental programming at Ballard Park that complemented their classroom work.



Newport second graders focused on insects in FBP's 'Bugs of Ballard' program— exploring insects' habitats, catching and identifying bugs and presenting information to the class. Ballard Park was visited by all nine second grade classes. One hundred nineteen of the one hundred sixty-six Newport second graders (72%) came to Ballard Park for field trips. Underwood's fourth grade visited Ballard Park twice, exploring the natural world and noting changes in season in their science journals.



Friends of Ballard Park participated in the City of Newport's 2009 Earth Day Celebration on April 25, 2009. The day kicked off with a park clean up. Under the direction of stewardship chair, Frank Amaral, local landscapers like Pat Cranson, Eugene Platt and Rob Bebee helped to clear invasives from trails. A second team including Peggy & Johnny Richmond, Lauren Parmelee, and SRU students Gina Barbeiri, Alex Dykeman and Clara Popit picked up litter in the park and along the roadside. At 10:30 the new trail sign was unveiled. The signs were purchased with funds received from William & Lowie Crisp, RI DEM Trails Advisory Committee and the ALT's Merritt Neighborhood Fund. Kiosks for the signs were built by students in the carpentry program at the Newport Area Career & Technical Center. Frank Amaral enhanced a map created by Mary Hutchinson. One sign is located at the park's entrance directly across from Rogers High School and the second is located off of the Hazard Road entrance. At 11 am Colleen McGrath led a free, guided walk through the park's thirteen acres which was well attended.

2009

6,737 Event Attendees

355 Field Trip Participants

Geology program developed

New Trail signs installed

43 species of birds documented within Ballard Park

Logo design contest added to Molly Finn Battle of the Bands event

Maisie Grace hosts Piranesi trunk show with proceeds benefiting FBP

FBP BOARD:

Carol C. Ballard
President

Frank Amaral
Karin Liiv
Colleen Quinn
Peggy Richmond
Fran Slutsky

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Colleen McGrath

EDUCATION COORDINATOR:

Reada Evans

EVENT STAFF:

Brigid Finn
Meaghan Hebert
Noah Jewell
Meme Lobecker

Frank was also one of three recipients of *The Newport Daily News*' 2009 Community Service Award in April 2009. A committee selected him after reading nomination letters detailing his dedication to Friends of Ballard Park and the many volunteer hours he spent at the park. He was celebrated later in the month at a banquet in his honor.

Volunteers Lauren Parmelee, Bob Weaver, Dan Cinotti and Roy Hillbinger documented 43 species of birds nesting in Ballard Park.

FBP partnered with five local organizations during the summer of 2009 to offer field trip-style programs for elementary and middle school aged children. One hundred seventy-two children participated in programming that focused on park exploration, animals, habitats and the environment. FBP educators utilized team building activities, hikes, scavenger hunts, crafts projects, environmental games and Ballard Park environs to promote awareness of the natural world and develop positive associations with the park.

Children visited the park one to six times throughout the summer. Partnering organizations included Child & Family Services, Child Opportunity Zone (at Sullivan School), City of Newport's Teen Extreme program and the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center. A new partner in 2009 was the Girl Scouts of Rhode Island (GSRI). While groups from nearby Carroll Avenue's Camp Rocky Farm have used Ballard Park in the past, this was the first year FBP staff provided structured programming. Activities that promoted trail safety and advanced bird and tree identifications skills complimented badge work for the participants.



Wet weather delayed the kickoff of Music Month. Friends of Ballard Park had to cancel Vejadu's concert ... twice! But as the saying goes "the third time was the charm" for Vejadu's "sun date" on Thursday, August 20th when the band performed prior to the screening of *Finding Nemo*. Over 320 people turned out for the concert which featured the 2008 winner of the Molly Finn Battle of the Bands: Julian Ciany, Fritz Drayton, Sam Moehrke and Teddy Nabozny. The concert series included two other performances. On July 9th the Parkington Sisters of Wellfleet, MA opened for local,

folk rockers The Skinny Millionaires. Vocalist Mike O'Donnell and bandmates Eamon Kelly, Justin Tarducci, Christy Amlicke, Joe Perreira and Megan O'Connor played to an audience of 160 people. Back for their third performance at Ballard Park was The Toe Jam Puppet Band. The popular trio attracted over 300 children and parents to Ballard Park for a morning of singing, dancing, laughing and puppetry.

The 3rd Annual Molly Finn Battle of the Bands was held on Saturday, July 18th, 2009. Seven bands vied for recording time at local studios and their own 2010 concert at Ballard Park. They were cheered on by 550 event attendees.

The rock duo Cadence King of Newport took first place. Dubbing themselves “a progressive rock duo”, Cadence King members nineteen year old Ian Cooper and twenty year old Alex Lanio played and studied music together since the age of fifteen. They had also written, produced and promoted a rock opera, built their own recording studio and played numerous benefits. The pair (shown right) won a full day at Stable Sound Studio in Portsmouth with engineer Steve Rizzo, an appearance at Newport Recreation Department’s Labor Day Picnic at King Park and a 2010 Concert at Ballard Park as part of their first place prize.



Vejadu took second place honors (placing all three years of the competition + winning first place in 2008 and second place in 2007). Teddy Nabozny, Sam Moehrke, Julian Ciany, Fritz Drayton and Adam Strattner received six hours of recording time at Summing Point Studio with engineer Scott Rancourt as part of their second place package.

The Molly Finn Battle of the Bands judges also recognized Applewagon as the third place finishers. Members of the band included David Moroney, Sander Doucette, Mason Fried, Phil Tracy and Andrew McCool. Other bands competing in the 3rd Annual Molly Finn Battle of the Bands were Vanquisher, No Opinion, The Way Things Work and What About Will. Serving as judges for the competition were Summing Point Studio owner Scott Rancourt, Newport Mercury reporter Matt Keefer, musicians Mark Quinn, Kate Dutton, Kate Perotti and Ollie Amerigan and Newport Blues’ Cafe booker Jim Quinn. At the event, an exhibition of artwork created by Rogers High School students under the direction of teacher Barbara Wunderler was displayed in the quarry meadow and the popular “Kid’s Corner” station manned by volunteers was a hit with children who enjoyed face painting, bubbles and hula hooping contests.



Friends of Ballard Park held a logo design competition in conjunction with the Battle of the Bands. High school students were invited to design and submit a logo they felt captured the spirit of the competition. Tiverton resident and NACTC Graphics student Christopher J. Veloza submitted the winning entry. Mr. Veloza was recognized at the event and received copies of the program booklet and event t-shirts for his portfolio. More than 60 people volunteered at the event.

Friends of Ballard Park partnered with Innerlight Yoga and the Newport Recreation Department to offer YOGA IN THE PARK during the Summer of 2009. The classes were taught by Patti Confort in Ballard Park’s quarry meadow. Open to yoga students of all levels, the classes focused on breathing, postures and relaxation. Fifty six (56) participants paid \$10 per class.

MOVIES ON THE ROCKS 2009 was the most successful to date with 860 attendees.... almost twice as many people turned out for the 2009 trio of screenings than 2008. And, each screening generated a larger turnout than the total attendance for MOVIES ON THE ROCKS 2007. The series kicked off on August 6th with a screening of *Raiders of the Lost Ark* (239 attendees). On August 20th Vejadu entertained the crowd before the screening of *Finding Nemo* (320 movie goers) and 301 tweens and teens were excited to partake in a viewing of *Twilight* on September 4th.



A little more than 4,000 people turned out for the 7th Annual Ballard Park Pumpkin Tour which was held on Saturday, October 17, 2009. The event featured 1,129 pumpkins (thanks to Charles Taylor for counting all of them!) on display along the park's loop trail and the Newport Fire Department's Fire Prevention Trailer across the street. The tour ran smoothly thanks to the assistance of many volunteers and members of the Newport Police Department and Newport Fire Department who were on hand for the event.

Presented by Ballard Exploration Company, Inc., the 2009 tour included thirty-four display areas ranging from jack-o-lanterns carved by local school children to those designed by local businesses, families, neighborhood groups and nonprofit agencies. The highlight of the 2009 tour was the display made by Mello's Flower Stand of Portsmouth. Owners of the stand carved for three days and nights to produce their designs which included pumpkins and gourds in the forms of the Phantom of the Opera, the Predator, dragons, mushrooms, mice, men and more.

As in past years students enrolled in the graphics program at the Newport Area Career & Technical Center carved sponsors' logos onto pumpkins for the lead display as part of a lesson on logo design. They were assisted by art students at Rogers High School and members of Salve Regina's Artist Guild. RHS art students also carved pumpkins of their own design for the tour. Children enjoyed touring the Newport Fire Department's Fire Prevention Trailer and learning what to do in the event of a fire - stop, drop & roll! Captain Kevin Garcia and Lieutenant Dave Hanos manned the trailer and the officers of NFD Station 2 were on hand for the event. It was a great tie in to National Fire Prevention Week.

Much to the delight of our volunteers and workers, two local establishments provided food for them. Pour Judgement catered a wonderful lunch mid-day while Blue Rocks Catering served dinner that evening. Although cold, the forecasted rain held off for the tour. We weren't as lucky on Sunday for the clean-up which was postponed until Monday due to a torrential rain storm. Tim Brown sent TJ Brown Landscape crew members Rob, Kyle and Larry to Ballard Park to help us remove the pumpkins from the trails. Scott Wheeler arranged for a truck from the City of Newport to cart them away.

2010

The 5th Annual Illuminated Garden was held on Friday, February 19th and Saturday, February 20th, 2010. Presented by Ballard Exploration Company, Inc., the event was the most successful to date with over 1,300 people attending.

The event featured several new installations. Students at Rogers High School created packing tape sculptures in the forms of a super hero and ballerina. Local artists Rebecca Harting and Kate Dana crafted a village of sea shanties made from cardboard boxes and illuminated with Christmas tree lights while children from Child & Family Services built teepees from bamboo which were then covered with nets of lights with Frank Amaral and Colleen McGrath. Light displays were strung in the quarry meadow's trees by climbers from Bartlett Tree Experts, Amaral Landscaping, TJ Brown Landscape and the City of Newport.

Frank Dwyer, owner of Stagecraft Sound & Lighting, worked his magic successfully running power for the event and CAT Entertainment Services donated a generator. Volunteers and tour goers were treated to hot chocolate made by event sponsor Pour Judgement. Volunteers and staff included Frank Amaral, Lauren Sullivan, Barbara Baum, Tim Brown, Kyle Calhoon, Charlie Baum, Tyler McKay, Colleen McGrath, Bob Oakley, Charlie Ridolf, Elizabeth Stouffer, Joe Titus, Mayor Steve Waluk, Tyler Minick and Mia Loyola

In April 2010, Emily Jenkins joined the FBP staff as education coordinator and the organization's second full time employee. Later that year, FBP moved its offices to a larger space on the second floor of the Audrain Building. The Ballards purchased new desks and office furniture for the space and Mr. Ballard paid the rent every other month.

As part of its 2010 Earth Day projects, FBP removed the original trail signs featuring acorns and faded type. Volunteers Lauren Parmelee, Bob Weaver, Dan Cinotti, Rey Larson, Charles Avenengo and Roy Hilbinger recorded 45 species of birds seen in or over Ballard Park.

Friends of Ballard Park hosted after school programs at Underwood School in the Winter of 2010. Reada Evans led two clusters with eighteen participants. Cluster 4 After School programs took place April 28 through June 2. Emily Jenkins led one group in weekly Ballard Park visits, focusing on trail exploration and creating insect terrariums. Eleven students participated in this cluster's program.

FBP's Education Committee set a goal of having fifteen classes visit Ballard Park in 2010, including all nine Newport Public Schools (NPS) 2nd grades. Twenty-seven classes booked field trips to Ballard Park. Five schools were first time visitors to Ballard Park. Three of the newly participating schools were private, helping FBP reach another education goal set for 2010. A \$3 fee per child was introduced for all programming.



A total of 499 students took an educational field trip to Ballard Park in Spring 2010 including all nine second grades from Newport Public Schools (176 students). The second graders collected insects while investigating bug habitats. Kindergarteners and first graders (113 students) from Underwood and Pell also visited the park.

For the first time, two classes from private schools visited Ballard Park. Both participated in new program offerings. Sixteen fourth graders from Cluny School went on an EcoScouting field trip. St Michael's Country Day School was the first private school in Newport to participate in FBP's newly established geology program. Twenty-four students used their field trip as an introduction to their earth science unit. Also new to Ballard Park were ninety-two (92) students from Gaudet Middle School's fifth grades. Two field trips in Ecoscouting were offered and due to the large group sizes (fifty and forty-two per trip), FBP had a volunteer educator assist with the field trips.



Thirty-nine (39) fourth and fifth graders from The Pennfield School, a private school in Portsmouth, came to Ballard Park for a comparative scavenger hunt. Friends Academy, in Dartmouth, Massachusetts brought 39 of their fourth graders to Ballard Park for a field trip in the newly created geology program.

For the first time in any of our collective memories, the vernal pond was completely dry during the summer months. Vines and dead branches were removed from Norway Maples along the vernal pond. "Work Days" organized by Stewardship Chair Frank Amaral featured professional landscapers donating their time to clear the area behind the vernal pond. Volunteers included Dave Smith, Tyler McKay, Pat Cawley, Chip Roberts, Paul Keefe and Rob Currier.

2010

8,198 Event Attendees

735 Field Trip Participants

FBP hires second full time employee: Emily Jenkins

FBP offices move to larger space on 2nd floor of the Audrain Building

\$3 Field Trip Fee introduced

Vernal Pond dries out in the summer months

Jenkins Construction purchases the title sponsorship to MUSIC MONTH

1st Annual Mad Hatter (Iced) Tea Party held

FBP BOARD:

Carol C. Ballard
President

Frank Amaral
Colleen Quinn
Peggy Richmond

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Colleen McGrath

EDUCATION COORDINATOR:

Emily Jenkins

EVENT STAFF:

Maggie Gomes
Meaghan Hebert
Noah Jewell
Kelly Kern
Aleks Martins
Katie Parent

Landscape architect Katie Parent drafted a plan for a new gate at the Hazard Road entrance.

Beginning on July 6th and ending August 26, 2010, FBP welcomed 124 children to Ballard Park with their summer counselors to participate in science themed activities led by FBP educator Emily Jenkins. Summer sessions lasted about two hours each and consisted of groups of two through fifty-nine students whose ages ranged from 5 to 12 years old.

Participating organizations were Child and Family Services of Rhode Island, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center Summer Camp and Teen Center, Newport Recreation Department Summer Camp and Newport Summer Learning Academy. One hundred twenty-four children participated. Children from Child and Family Services, Newport Recreation Department and the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center attended scheduled weekly sessions during the summer and the Newport Summer Learning Academy students attended one scheduled field trip in August.



Friends of Ballard Park was happy to welcome a new title sponsor for its MUSIC MONTH series: Jenkins Construction of Middletown, RI. Jenkins Construction's MUSIC MONTH featured four free concerts in the quarry meadow. Cadence King, winner of the 3rd Annual Molly Finn Battle of the Bands, kicked off the series on June 25th. Eighty-two (82) concert goers enjoyed Ian Cooper, Ryan Wagner and Alex Lanio's unique sound which spanned melodic waltzes to alternative rock. On July 8th Berklee College of Music grad, poet and Newporter Mark Quinn brought together an all-star lineup of music luminaries to perform before a crowd of 108 people. Tish Adams, Gracious Audette, Craig Howell, Jim McGrath, Dave Ross, Brian Thomas, Jim Warren, LeRoy White and Jay White each played a ten minute set then came together for an ensemble piece.

The Toe Jam Puppet Band gave its fourth performance at Ballard Park on July 22nd to 302 attendees. After the concert attendees were invited to lend their artistic talents to help NewportCOVE create a mural about the Newport community. NewportCOVE seeks to eradicate domestic violence by creating a safe and healthy community. That evening The Clarke Cooke House sponsored a concert by their house band, the Foreverly Brothers (Frank Piccirilli, George

Lorenzo and Jon Litwin) which was attended by forty-nine people.



The 4th Annual Molly Finn Battle of the Bands was held on Saturday, July 17th. Four hundred people attended the event which featured six bands competing for prizes including recording time and a 2011 concert at Ballard Park. Sidewinder, a Portsmouth RI based band, won first place. Chris Vaillancourt (18) on guitar, Elias Wheeler (18) on bass and drummer Zig Coffey (17) on drums won a full day at Stable Sound Studio with engineer Steve Rizzo, an appearance at a Newport Recreation Department concert at King Park and a concert at Ballard

Park. Heavy metal band East of Eden took second place honors. Guitarist Peter Varrica (21), bassist Kelly Fay (17) and drummer Chris Silvia (25) received six hours of recording time at Summing Point Studio with engineer Scott Rancourt. Milkbread was recognized as third place finishers. Other bands competing were Compass School Rock Band, Leave it Blank and Coda. Thirty-four musicians aged 11 to 25 played genres ranging from funk, fusion and hip hop to classic rock and heavy metal. Serving as judges were *Newport Mercury* reporter Matt Keefer, comedian Dermot Dulde-Dix, musicians Mark Quinn, LeRoy White and Ollie Amerigan and Newport Blue's Café booker Jim Quinn.

FBP broadened the event to include a logo design contest for high school students and an "Art Exhibition with Prizes" for middle and high school students. Callie Griffiths, a 10th grader at Rogers High School, (pictured at right with Kiki Finn and Colleen McGrath) won the logo design contest. Three prizes were awarded in the art competition. Event goers were invited to vote for a "People's Choice Award". Carol Ballard wrote a short critique of each of the pieces that were submitted and a "Carol C. Ballard Award" was presented to Kevin Nunes. Four students from Newport's sister city Shimoda, Japan attended and received an official Molly Finn Battle of the Bands t-shirt as they were recognized on stage.



Tuesday evening yoga classes were a bit hit. In July and August Patti Confort of Innerlight Yoga led classes in the quarry meadow which were open to students of all levels and so well attended that classes were extended to September with Liz Lindh of FLOW. Combined attendance was 81 people.



FBP introduced a new event on August 9, 2010, the Mad Hatter (Iced) Tea Party. Children and adults were enchanted with the Alice in Wonderland Scavenger Hunt set up throughout Ballard Park's trails. The hunt had children scurrying to find four of a kind cards, paint white roses red, and count the Cheshire Cat's teeth. Local teens dressed up as Alice, the Mad Hatter, Queen of Hearts, the March Hare, Tweedle Dee and Tweedle Dum. Prior to the scavenger hunt event goers ate tea sandwiches at the Mad Hatter's table.

In the fall FBP hosted two weekly groups who visited the park for six and seven sessions from September 28 through November 9. The groups of eleven and twelve students were in grades one through four. The focus of this program was to observe seasonal changes in Ballard Park, explore and review Ballard Park trails and perform small physical challenges in the quarry meadow.

Cox Digital Store at Flint Audio Video presented the 2010 MOVIES ON THE ROCKS series which featured showings of *Ghostbusters* (74 attendees) on August 5th, *A Bug's Life* (293 movie goers) on August 19th and *Twilight New Moon* on September 4th with 102 attendees.



The 8th Annual Ballard Park Pumpkin Tour presented by Ballard Exploration Company, Inc. broke a new record with 5,350 attendees on October 15, 2011. Event goers enjoyed thirty-two displays carved by community groups, students, families and local business owners. The highlight of the tour, once again, was the display by Mello's Flower Stand. Mello's 'pumpkin carving crew' started creating their works of art the Monday before the tour and didn't finish until 5 am the morning of the tour. Standouts included the "In Gourd We Trust" pumpkin which resembled a quarter, an oyster with a pearl and the green swan made from gourds.

Captain Kevin Garcia of the Newport Fire Department said 1,000 fire hats and 1,000 cups with fire prevention rules were distributed that evening to children who toured the Fire Prevention Trailer. Firemen filled the trailer with a non-threatening smoke to simulate a house fire. They taught children the "stop, drop and roll" technique. The hook and ladder crew was also on hand to interact with children.

Emily Jenkins, Colleen McGrath and Tom McGrath delivered 500 pumpkins to local schools in the pouring rain the week before the event using T.R. McGrath's truck. Students enrolled in the Newport Area Career & Technical Center's graphic design class carved sponsors' logos onto pumpkins under the direction of instructor David Connell. Salve Regina University's Art Guild members created several of the sponsors pumpkins too. Both Underwood and Cranston Calvert Elementary Schools held carving parties after school as did the Boys & Girls Clubs of Newport County and Child & Family Services. A number of island schools entered displays including Cluny, Emmanuel Day School, Melville Elementary School, the MET School, St. Michael's Country Day School and Newport Montessori.



Lady Hibernians put the O' in their display with shamrocks, Celtic crosses and one resembling former FBP board member Peter J. O'Neill. New to the tour were Its My Party Bake Shoppe, DeCastro Farms, Rudd Hall and the Jenkins Family. Returning favorites were Quantum Sails of Newport, Rene & Son Carpet Center, Aquidneck Grower's Market, Friends of Molly Finn, Holy Smokes, Morton Avenue Carvers, Wag Nation, Olympic Physical Therapy, the Corcoran and

Leys family, Newport This Week, Newport Yacht Club, the Girl Scouts and the Casey-Coggeshall Carvers. Tim Brown and Bill Boiani helped pick up pumpkins and the City of Newport provided wood chips for trails which Frank Amaral prepped.

In November, a group of six Girl Scout troops came to Ballard Park to investigate its ecosystems. This group used the FBP after school field trip as part of their science patch program.

Harry Eudenbach, author of *Estate Gardeners of Newport*, was on hand at FBP's "Holiday Cheer" party to sign copies of his book. Mr. Eudenbach generously donated half of the proceeds of the evening's sales to FBP. McGrath Clambakes, Inc. provided Rhode Island Chowder and hors d'oeuvres and Bellevue Wine & Spirits contributed the libations.

2011

The 6th Annual Illuminated Garden was held on Saturday, February 26, 2011. Presented by Ballard Exploration Company, Inc., the event attracted 934 people. Friday evening was cancelled due to wet weather.



Two students from the Rhode Island School of Design, Falon Mihalic and Judit Kollo, produced exhibits. St. Michael's Country Day School students lined the entry way with beautiful sculptures while Maggie & Ellie Coen displayed a piece entitled "Peace, Love & Hoops" with the help of their parents. Kate Dana brought back a favorite from last year – the village of sea shanties while children from the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center got creative making their "Birduary" arbor. Local artist Rose Escobar exhibited a large metal heart shaped sculpture titled "Holding". The Boys & Girls Clubs of Newport County entry was entitled "Tree of Friendship". In addition to these displays, FBP works with a small army to set up the event. Charlie Ridolf and Chad Phillips began stringing Chinese lanterns on Wednesday while Frank Amaral installed bamboo stalks. Noah Jewell 'art directed' several creative exhibits. Volunteers and staff worked with tree climbers from Bartlett Tree Experts and TJ Brown. CAT Entertainment and Stagecraft Sound & Lighting ran all of the power for the event.

In the spring of 2011, Lauren Parmelee, Bob Weaver, Charles Avenengo and Don Cinotti documented birds nesting in and around Ballard Park. Forty-four (44) were species identified within or over Ballard Park with six new species spotted. On June 26th naturalist Charles Avenengo participated in the North American Butterfly Count and stopped to inventory butterflies in Ballard Park.



From April 25 through June 6, 2011 FBP worked with twenty-five after school participants. Thirteen students from Underwood Elementary School's 21st Century After school program participated in six weekly sessions. Twelve Girl Scouts came for an afterschool visit. Kindergarten and first grade students from Underwood after school group studied weather and plant growth in Ballard Park. Students illustrated growing plant life such as unfurling ferns, buttercups and tree blossoms while recording weather characteristics and patterns in their 'Ballard Park Science Journals'. The Girl Scout participants were in grades one through four and participated in a 'Bugs of Ballard Park' field trip, observing, collecting and recording insect data from Ballard Park's meadow. This field trip helped the troops earn their outdoor badges.

From May 25 through June 23 FBP welcomed two hundred seventy-one (271) field trip participants from eight schools. Newport, Middletown and Portsmouth public and private schools participated in eight field trips throughout the spring. One field trip, from Jamestown's Melrose Avenue School, was cancelled due to inclement weather. Participating schools included Cluny School, Cranston-Calvert, Gaudet Middle School, Sullivan School, The Pennfield School and Underwood School.

2011

8,343 Event Attendees

506 Field Trip Participants

Wes Anderson films scenes from *Moonrise Kingdom* in Ballard Park

Mayor Waluk presents the Key to the City of Newport to Les Ballard at FBP's Annual Fundraiser

Bartlett Tree Experts applies three preventative tick barrier treatments in the meadow

MOVIES ON THE ROCKS receives "Best Outdoor Entertainment" award from *RI Monthly*

September 17, 2011 named "Molly Finn Battle of the Bands Day" in the City of Newport

FBP BOARD:

Carol C. Ballard
President

Frank Amaral
Colleen Quinn
Peggy Richmond
Marriam Ring
Tom Shevlin

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Colleen McGrath

EDUCATION COORDINATOR:

Emily Jenkins

EVENT STAFF:

Maya Byrne, Meaghan Hebert,
Kelly Kern, Jennifer Kanyock,
Hayden Pfeiffer, Sarah McDaid

In summer 2011 Friends of Ballard Park (FBP) partnered with Aquidneck Island organizations to offer educational field trips for children ages five through thirteen. From July 11 through August 12, FBP welcomed two hundred seven participants. Five organizations collaborated with FBP for summer programming. The Newport Summer Learning Academy participated for the third summer in a row. FBP partnered with the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center for the sixth consecutive year. Newport Recreation Department participated for the tenth year. New partners were the YMCA summer camp and the Spouting Rock Beach Association Sports Group.

We were excited to have Wes Anderson and his crew film scenes of *Moonrise Kingdom* at Ballard Park in June 2011. One of the extras for the movie's main character, Suzy, was Newporter Eliza Taylor. Eliza began volunteering at the Ballard Park Pumpkin Tour at a very young age and as a teenager worked events for Friends of Ballard Park.



On June 11th, Mayor Steve Waluk presented the key to the City of Newport to Les Ballard at Friends of Ballard Park's Annual Fundraiser. Mayor Waluk thanked Les and Carol for the contributions they made to Ballard Park and the City of Newport

Yoga in the Park had its most successful season with 181 participating in classes which began June 18th with a special Yoga Mala Fundraiser and continued on Tuesday evenings through September. Liz Lindh volunteered to organize the Yoga Mala which attracted 54 yogis who donated \$10 each to participate. The art rock band Castle (Dave Passafiume, Craig Crawford, Mike Cellemmee, Noah Bickford and Jenn Bessin) performed as Ms. Lindh led the group in 108 sun salutations and meditative walks through the meadow. At the conclusion of the mala, Ms. Lindh released live butterflies in Ballard Park. Patti Confort of Innerlight Yoga offered a free yoga class on the evening of the solstice which attracted 59 people, the largest turnout in the program's history. Total participation for the season was 181 individuals.

Friends of Ballard Park welcomed 720 concert goers to Jenkins Construction's MUSIC MONTH series in 2011. Twenty-two musicians performed in a total of four concerts. Members of Sidewinder, winner of the 4th Annual Molly Finn Battle of the Bands, opened the series on

Wednesday, July 6th. Vocalist Chris Vaillancourt and guitarist Elias Wheeler invited "guest drummers" to join them for their concert including Mike Collins who performed with Bloody Knuckles, winner of the 1st Annual Molly Finn Battle of the Bands. One hundred fifteen people attended the concert.



Mark Quinn (photo left) was back with a star-studded line up on July 13th. Ten musicians took to the stage before a fast moving rain storm hit. Mark Quinn, DeNeille Thompson, Gracious Audette, Jimmy Warren & Craig Howell, Jim McGrath, Big Cat Blues and Peter Lucci entertained the crowd of one hundred three people in a cabaret-style format organized by Mr. Quinn.

The most well attended concert was on the morning of July 20th when the Toe Jam Puppet Band returned to Ballard Park. Close to 350 people, most of whom were children, danced, sang, performed on stage and congo'd with the trio who have developed their own special brand of interactive entertainment. On the evening of July 20th The Clarke Cooke House sponsored a concert by their house band, the Foreverly Brothers. Playing music appealing to all generations were Frank Piccirilli on guitar and vocals, George D. Lorenzo on guitar and Jon Litwin on bass. One hundred fifty-five people turned out for the group that "plays music for the baby boomer generation".

"Work Days" continued. Under the direction of Frank Amaral, invasives along the quarry wall and behind the vernal pond were cleared by volunteers Pat Cawley, James Casey, Paul Keefe, Chip Roberts and Matt Smith. Bartlett Tree Experts performed three preventative tick barrier sprayings.

Friends of Ballard Park held its 2nd Annual Mad Hatter Iced Tea Party sponsored by NewportFed, McGrath Clambakes, Inc. and Lands End Limousine on Monday, August 8, 2011. Guests were welcomed by "Alice" played by Margot Goddard and invited to partake in hat making and enjoy delicious treats from the Mad Hatter's tea table. Jessica Gorman of Wanderingstar styled the table with her collection of cake plates and baked lots of treats including mini cupcakes, gluten free cupcakes, mini banana bread loaves and lemon poppy muffins. The Coen family also contributed cupcakes and It's My Party Bake Shoppe made exquisite cookies in the shapes of tea pots, playing cards, clocks and others with whimsical messages.



Heather Strout instructed children on the rules for the Scavenger Hunt and they were off! They had to correctly answer a riddle for the Cheshire Cat played by Mary Jenkins, paint the roses red for the Queen & King Of Hearts (Agnes Thompson and Mary Kate Murphy), jump rope with two Alices (Margot Goddard and Jordan Glenning); do what the Mad Hatter Said aka play "Simon Says" with Avery Mey, win a round of the card game "War" with Tweedle Dee and Tweedle Dum who were in fact Lauren Sullivan and Emily Hook. Shannon Hugard and Bailey Stearns were quite entertaining as the March Hare and White Rabbit and Siobahn Donovan was a terribly cute caterpillar!

As the winning team — Steph, Erika and Sue-Anne Baxter of Swansea — were racing second place finishers Jack & Grace Tatirosian and Gunner Bennett to the finish line the skies opened up and the rain began to fall, making for a very dramatic ending to a fun-filled day.

The 2011 MOVIES ON THE ROCKS series featured three screenings and was supported by \$3,000 "Production Sponsor" Cox Communications, \$1,500 "Power Sponsor" Citizens Bank and \$500 "Popcorn Sponsors" A Market, Eye Health Vision Centers, Keenwah and Stagecraft Sound & Lighting. The screenings attracted our largest attendance to date with 369 people attending the August 10th screening of *The Wizard of Oz*; 302 at *Willy Wonka & The Chocolate Factory* on August 17th and 325 at *Shrek* on August 24th.

Rhode Island Monthly editors declared MOVIES ON THE ROCKS its pick for "Best Outdoor Entertainment" for 2011 listing it "true big screen magic, a summer must and could trump seeing *Avatar* at IMAX".

The 5th & Final Molly Finn Battle of the Bands was held on Saturday, September 17, 2011 in the quarry meadow of Ballard Park. Three hundred seventy-six people attended the event which featured seven bands competing for prizes including recording time and a 2012 concert at Ballard Park.

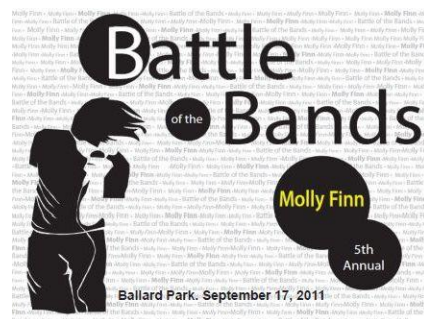
A panel of five judges which included Molly's brother Patrick Finn, musicians Leroy White, Scott Krous and Mark Quinn and Newport Blues Cafe booker Jim Quinn awarded first prize to Milkbread, the only band that performed in the competition previously. Milkbread was also the largest assemblage with seven bandmates: Ben Shaw, Dylan LaGumma, Dylan Sevey, Brandon Moore, Chris Gagnon, Matt Reagan and Seth Bailey. The band formed at the University of Rhode Island. The bandmates were a group of Jazz majors and players who got together to make



a unique brand of Hip-Hop. After more than a year of dedication and gigging they released their first EP, and stand by the credo of "bringing thought provoking, theoretically complex and emotionally moving music to the masses."

Milkbread (shown left) received six hours of recording time with Scott Rancourt at Summing Point Studio and their own 2012 concert at Ballard Park as the first place winners.

Also performing at the 5th Annual Molly Finn Battle of the Bands was JJKendoo of Middletown, RI. The youngest band to play, JJKendoo featured Jake, Kenzie and Julia Lapham. Bristol teenagers Tyler Falcoa, Ryan Falcoa and Tom Hanson then performed under their band name The 1st Time Around followed by Chukka of Jamestown, a group performing classic rock and folk that included Andrew Alveledo, Derek Delahunt, Ben Taylor, Greg Maloozi and Alex Pendergrass. The most seasoned musicians were Michael McKenney, John Toste, Clem Brown and Bruce Gavin. All members of Funny Little Planet were from Tiverton, RI. Rounding out the line-up were Newport-based bands Designated Driver which included Jon Santos, Mike Cassese, Zack Rego and Mark Carey and art rockers Castle aka Dave Passafiume, Craig Crawford, Mike Cellemme, Noah Bickford and Jenn Bessin. It was Castle's second time performing at Ballard Park as the band generously volunteered to play at a Yoga Mala Fundraiser in the beginning of the Summer.



As in past years, Friends of Ballard Park held a logo design contest in conjunction with the event. Trevor Morgera, a senior at Rogers High School won the competition. Trevor said his graphic design teacher David Connell told the class they should

design something original and that is exactly what appealed to the committee who felt Mr. Morgera's design was modern and unlike any they had seen in previous years. Mr. Morgera's logo appeared on all signage for the event, t-shirts worn by volunteers, the cover of the program booklet and all promotional materials for the event.

Midway through the event, City Councilor Justin McLaughlin took to the stage to present a proclamation declaring September 17, 2011 "Molly Finn Battle of the Bands Day" in the City of Newport. The proclamation noted how close to two hundred musicians ranging in age from 11 to 59 years old had performed at the Molly Finn Battle of the Bands over the past few years and members of these bands had received valuable lessons in performing, recording time at local studios, press coverage, additional concert opportunities and recognition of their talents. It also recognized the community's involvement in the event over the years and thanked Kiki Finn, her family, friends, the dedicated volunteers and sponsors for creating a quality event which engaged area teens in a positive manner and helped transform Ballard Park into a vibrant performing space.



On hand for the event was Carol Ballard and her daughter Leslie Ballard Hull (pictured above with Councilor McLaughlin, Kiki Finn and Colleen McGrath). The 5th Annual Molly Finn Battle of the Bands was sponsored by Dave Michael Distinctive Homes, Kiki Finn, Stagecraft Sound & Lighting, CAT Entertainment Services and Lou & Nina (Bestoso) Poanessa. The event was captured by award winning videographer Rich Talipsky. An edited version of the 5th Annual Molly Finn Battle of the Bands was shown on a local cable access show.



Beautiful weather and the promise of another year of dazzling pumpkins attracted over 4,800 people to Ballard Park on Saturday, October 15, 2011 for the 9th Annual Ballard Park Pumpkin Tour.

Event goers were greeted by members of Newport Fire Department's Station 2 who promoted National Fire Prevention Week. As parents waited in line, children explored the NFD's Fire Prevention Trailer where they learned the "stop, drop and roll" technique used during a fire. Dressed in full gear, fire fighters taught children to crawl on the floor to find the good air and touch for hot doors in their trailer which fills with harmless smoke. Little ones also enjoyed a chance to sit on the back seat of the hook and ladder truck and interact with the firemen.



A new addition to the Pumpkin Tour was a giant jack-o-lantern on loan from Jim & Betsy Peckham of Peckham Farms of Portsmouth. Mr. Peckham makes the smiling

metal gourds. The one at Ballard Park had already made the rounds on Aquidneck Island as the Peckhams kindly loan it out to organizations holding fairs, schools and the like during the Fall season. Families were delighted to gather in front of the "great pumpkin" for a photograph before entering the tour.



Friends of Ballard Park relied solely on battery lit LED candles to light the 1,100+ jack-o-lanterns on display. While more expensive than candles, the LED lights ensured a safer environment for all and eliminated the need for volunteers to continuously re-light candles. Something we were thankful for as there were heavy winds that evening.



Another safety-prompted change was reversing the tour. The public walked in a counter clockwise direction so that the overflow of people could line up on the closed portion of Wickham Road. Friends of Ballard Park appreciated the assistance of Newport Fire & Police personnel in managing crowd control.



Even with a shortage of pumpkins (due to Hurricane Irene) Ballard Park's loop trail was aglow with over 1,100 jack-o-lanterns carved by local school children, social service agency clients, artists, business owners and families. Mello's Farm & Flower Stand of Portsmouth was once again the highlight of the show. Tour goers were awed by their creative collection which ran the gamut from nature-related concoctions like corn husks and butterflies to bulging eyeballs and human

heads. Other noted displays included the Newport Fire Department with many fire themed pumpkins - a flashing 911, hooks & ladders and flames; the Haunted Shipyard with its spooky, nautical display; Rene & Son Carpet with classic and cleverly carved gourds and the Norman Bird Sanctuary with its tranquil, avian-inspired mass of pumpkins.

Students enrolled in David Connell's graphics class at the Newport Area Career & Technical Center carved all of the sponsors pumpkins. The students started working on the designs two weeks before the event. They were challenged with many melting pumpkins meaning they had to start over and learn a valuable lesson on always having a Plan B! The exercise was a great way to teach teens about event planning, working on deadline and the myriad uses of logos.

Twenty local businesses purchased sponsorships to help defray the costs of pumpkins for local school children, LED lights, police details and staff time. Thirty-eight volunteers worked in conjunction with staff to set up the displays, deliver pumpkins and clean everything up the next day while representatives from schools, organizations, businesses and families organized carving parties to produce the thousand plus jack-o-lanterns. And, staff from the City of Newport embraced the event and helped to ensure it was safe and welcoming for all.

2012

The 7th Annual Illuminated Garden was held on Saturday, February 25, 2012. Presented by Ballard Exploration Company, Inc., the event attracted over 850 people.

It was a typical winter week in New England -- setting up the lights in fifty degree weather then waking up to a snow covered ground on Friday morning! And, of course, Mother Nature had to throw in high winds and freezing temperatures to



make things more exciting on Saturday. Despite the extreme weather the show was beautiful and featured more displays than ever.



Students at St. Michael's Country Day School created two exhibits. Fifth through eighth graders enrolled in the Studio Art Class taught by Leslie Fisk and Robert Kalaidjian produced "Avian Gathering", an installation of fifty illuminated translucent bird sculptures cast with plastic wrap and packaging tape which included owls, duck, geese, swans and loons. The eighth grade art class also made packing tape sculptures. Their display entitled "Chrysalis" consisted of thirty or so student body form fragments fashioned from plastic wrap and packaging tape strung from tree branches in the quarry meadow. According to instructor, Robert Kalaidjian, the gossamer

forms resembled illuminated cocoons and represented the students' evolution from their Pre-K past to moving on to high school. Both of the displays paid homage to the works and processes of George Segal, Bruce Nauman and Rachel Whiteread.

Youth from the Kids Clubhouse program at the Boys & Girls Club worked with Lisa Tobin from the Newport Art Museum and Ed Pichette II to create "Alien Invasion" a beautiful UFO and archway display. The UFO was punctuated with cutouts of aliens and covered with a glittering

plastic cover. Cluny School children and their parents made replicas of notable Newport buildings and structures out of cardboard boxes. The display included Newport Harbor and the Newport Bridge, yachts, the Newport Skating Center, St. Joseph's Church, buildings that were home to The Red Parrot, Arnold Art, the Gas Lamp Grille and Starbucks.

Friends of Ballard Park's educator, Jessica Lade, worked with kids at the Newport Community Opportunity Zone to create "Wild Things" animals made from recycled bottles, google eyes, tissue paper, pipe cleaners and other crafty items while art teacher Nicole Icart had her students at Thompson Middle School make "Power Stars". Teens from the Synergy Youth Ministry of EFC Newport posed as live statues in the "Divine Accord" display.

Teams from TJ Brown Landscape, Bartlett Tree Experts and the City of Newport Public Works division climbed trees, worked in bucket trucks and strung thousands of lights along with FBP's staff. Stagecraft Sound & Lighting and CAT Entertainment provided the power. Sponsors included Ballard Exploration Company, Senator Teresa Paiva Weed, Bartlett Tree Experts, the Law Offices of Joseph J. Nicholson and Pour Judgment Bar & Grill.



In 2012, rock climbers helped us in our fight against invasives along the quarry wall. Kevin Kirby, Tucker Kirby, Charles Hayes, Jeremiah O'Conner and Doug Sabetti donned their climbing gear and scaled the quarry wall to remove plants growing in crevices and remove climbing anchors. We had a terrific turnout for Earth Day with 52 people (shown above) ranging from Girl Scouts to firemen helping us to pick up litter and prune the trails.

Naturalists Charles Avenengo, Lauren Parmelee, Bob Weaver, Dan Cinotti and Reada Evans spotted 48 species within or over Ballard Park in 2012. Bartlett Tree Experts continued to spray the meadow with barrier treatments to prevent ticks. Vandalism seemed to increase. Our sheds were sprayed with graffiti and the port-a-johns were flipped over regularly.

2012

8,003 Event Attendees

718 Field Trips Participants

48 species seen in or above
Ballard Park

Graffiti increases with FBP's
sheds sprayed and port-a-john
flipped over

Home School classes
introduced

FBP BOARD:

Carol C. Ballard
President

Colleen Quinn
Peggy Richmond
Marriam Ring
Tom Shevlin

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Colleen McGrath

EVENT COORDINATOR:

Alexa Furtado

EDUCATION COORDINATOR:

Reada Evans

EDUCATORS:

Nicole Guterrez
Erika Klinkhammer
Jessica Lade

EVENT STAFF:

Maya Byrne, Meredith Darby,
Jordan Draper, Kelly Kern
Hayden Pfeiffer, Kaya Randall
Talia Simanski,
Lauren Sullivan



Twenty-five classes from Newport, Middletown and Portsmouth public and private schools participated in ten field trips throughout the spring. Homeschoolers from Rhode Island participated in two field trips. Two field trips, Jamestown's Melrose Avenue School and The Met School in Newport, were cancelled due to inclement weather. One hundred fifty-two first graders took part in 'Animals/Habitats' field trips. One hundred ninety-seven second grade students participated in FBP's 'Bugs of Ballard Park' insect field trip. Ninety-eight third, fourth and sixth grade students participated in the 'Geology' field trip. Twenty-six fourth grade students studied ecosystems on their Ballard Park field trip and seventeen homeschool students participated in a 'Plants' field trip. Participating schools: Aquidneck Elementary School, Cluny School, Coggeshall School, Cranston Calvert, St. Michael's Country Day School, Sullivan School and Underwood School.

Seventeen students participated in FBP after school programming. Eight students from Underwood Elementary School's 21st Century After School Program participated in seven weekly sessions. Nine participants came to Ballard Park from The Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center (MLK) afterschool program.

One hundred seventeen first and second grade students participated in FBP's 'Bugs of Ballard Park' insect themed field trip. Eighty fourth and fifth grade students participated in the Ecosystems field trip. Fifty-one first graders took part in a weather and organism themed field trip and twenty-three third and fourth grade students studied geology on their Ballard Park field trip.

On June 16th FBP held another Yoga Mala led by Liz Lindh, Jaycee Gossett, Mary Leonti, Courtney Meletta and Patti Confort. Forty-seven people made one hundred eight sun salutations as the art rock band, Castle, performed. Band members Dave Passafiume, Craig Crawford, Mike Cellemee, Noah Bickford and Jenn Bessin donated their time as did the yoga instructors.

Regular weekly classes began with a free summer solstice session courtesy of Patti Confort of Innerlight Yoga. One hundred eleven people attended classes that ran through August.

Friends of Ballard Park welcomed 730 concert goers to Jenkins Construction's MUSIC MONTH series in 2012. Milkbread, winner of the 5th & Final Molly Finn Battle of the Bands opened the concert series on Wednesday, July 11th with their unique sound which infuses hip hop and jazz. The jazz ensemble featured Ben Shaw on vocals and tenor sax, Dylan LaGamma on bass, Dylan Sevey on drums, Brendan Moore on keyboard, Chris Gagnon on alto and tenor sax, Matt Reagan on guitar and Seth Bailey on trumpet. Band members were jazz majors at the University of Rhode Island and continue to perform together around Aquidneck Island.

Honky Tonk Knight's concert (shown right) was moved to Thursday evening due to rain on Wednesday but that didn't stop an impressive audience of 104 people from turning out on July 19th. Many took to the "grass dance floor" throughout the show. Steve Cerilli, Wil Cooley, Bill Cote and Jay White shared their Bakersfield sound with over one hundred event goers.



The most well attended concert was on the morning of July 25th when the Toe Jam Puppet Band returned to Ballard Park. A record 429 people, most of whom were children, danced, sang, performed on stage and congo'd with the trio who have developed their own special brand of interactive entertainment. That evening "Skinny Millionaires" Mike O'Donnell and James Kirby performed for a crowd of 130 people. Sponsors were Kiki Finn, Nina Bestoso Poanessa and the Rhode Island State Senate, and co-sponsors Newport Grand, Salve Regina University and Stagecraft Sound & Lighting.

In summer 2012 Friends of Ballard Park (FBP) partnered with Aquidneck Island organizations to offer educational field trips for children ages five through fourteen. From July 2 through August 14, FBP welcomed one hundred forty-one participants from the following organizations: The Newport Summer Learning Academy, the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center, Newport Parks and Recreation Department and Spouting Rock Beach Association (SRBA) Sports Group participated for their second year. Children from the MLK Center came twice during the summer. All other children visited one time.

Friends of Ballard Park held its 3rd Annual Mad Hatter (Iced) Tea Party on Monday, August 6th



2012. Over two hundred people enjoyed hat making, croquet, tea sandwiches and sweets in the quarry meadow of Ballard Park. The event was sponsored by McGrath Clambakes, Inc., NewportFed, TJ Brown Landscape and The Newport Sweet Shoppe.

Lollipops magically sprouted from the ground and the Mad Hatter's long table was covered with exquisitely designed cookies and delicious cupcakes, cake pops and brownies from The Newport Sweet

Shoppe. There were oversized cookies shaped like cards, Cheshire cats, clocks, top hats and tea pots for children to nibble on after enjoying tea sandwiches.

Education coordinator Reada Evans invited children to partake in an Alice in Wonderland-themed Scavenger Hunt along the trails. The hunt had children scrambling through a “trail of Cards”, answering the White Rabbit’s riddles, pinning a grin on the Cheshire Cat and ‘tea cup racing’ with Alice. Ronan and Ciara Caulfield, Jonathan and Katie Guinan and Patrick Bryan won the Scavenger Hunt and received first edition copies of Catherine Milinaire’s book *ILIANA, The Wandering Vine*.



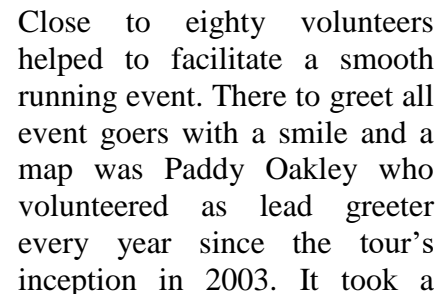
The 2012 MOVIES ON THE ROCKS series featured three screenings. The screenings attracted FBP’s largest attendance to date with 428 people attending the August 8th screening of *The Lion King*; 248 at *E.T.* on August 15th and 335 at *Back to the Future* on August 22nd. The 2012 MOVIES ON THE ROCKS series featured three screenings.



The 10th Annual Ballard Park Pumpkin Tour featured a record number of pumpkins (1,232!) displayed in the trees, ledges and pathways of Ballard Park’s loop trail. Presented by Ballard Exploration Company, Inc., the tour was held on Saturday, October 13, 2012 and attracted nearly five thousand event goers (4,968) during the hours of 4:30 to 9:00 pm.

The event relied heavily on community support. Several companies sponsored the event all ten years: Ballard Exploration Company, Inc., BR Arnold Construction, McGrath Clambakes, Inc., Newport Tent Company, R&R Construction, Roger King Fine Arts, TJ Brown Landscape Contractors and attorney Turner Scott.

The sponsors' pumpkins were once again at the front entrance to Ballard Park. They surrounded John Peckham's oversized metal jack-o-lantern. Mr. Peckham made the giant gourd and regularly loaned it to organizations around the island.



A group of children and adults are walking along a wooden boardwalk in a park. The children are wearing colorful autumn clothing, including hats, scarves, and boots. Some are carrying pumpkins. The path is surrounded by trees with yellow and orange leaves, and several pumpkins are scattered on the ground.

A man wearing a dark hoodie and jeans is pushing a wheelbarrow filled with several pumpkins. He is walking on a wooden boardwalk that leads through a dense forest. The pumpkins are of various sizes and are some are carved. A small white sign with the number '4' is visible on the right side of the boardwalk.

2013

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Friends of Ballard Park held the 8th Annual Illuminated Garden presented by Ballard Exploration Company, Inc. on Thursday, February 21 and Friday, February 22, 2013. Saturday evening's garden was cancelled due to wet weather. The event was well attended with 350 people touring the garden on Thursday and 801 on Friday evening.

Set up for the event started the week before when Friends of Ballard Park's staff members began stringing lights on trees in the quarry meadow. The next week, they were joined by crews from the City of Newport and Bartlett Tree Experts. Staff and volunteers worked on the lower trees while the bucket truck operator and professional tree climbers saw to the higher spots.

Exhibits were made by several local groups. Students at St. Michael's Country Day School used bottles to create "Recycled Jungle" in a grove of trees while Cluny School students built replicas of Newport buildings from cardboard boxes. The Boys & Girls Club were well represented with a model of the Newport Bridge complete with toy cars passing over it. Friends of Ballard Park educators, Reada Evans and Erika Klinkhammer, worked in after school programs for several weeks and produced igloos made from recycled milk jugs which children and adults alike enjoyed exploring.

Frank Dwyer, owner of Stagecraft Sound & Lighting, brought his unique lighting displays including kid-approved projections of horses, balloons, a carousel and butterfly which were shown on quarry walls. Sponsors were National Grid, the Rhode Island State Senate, and co-sponsors Bartlett Tree Experts, CAT Entertainment Services, DS Design, the Law Offices of Joe Nicholson, Pour Judgement Bar + Grill, Senator M. Teresa Paiva Weed and TJ Brown Landscape, Inc.

2013

3,065 Event Attendees

852 Field Trip Participants

Quaking Aspen die in snowstorm; fence saplings to encourage growth

New entry gate installed at Hazard Road entrance

Treads in boardwalk replaced

Ballard Park Pumpkin Tour retired and more nature programming introduced like evenings of sky gazing

Audrain Building sold
FBP moves office to Post Office, 320 Thames Street

FBP BOARD:

Carol C. Ballard
President

Colleen Quinn
Peggy Richmond
Marriam Ring
Tom Shevlin

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Colleen McGrath

EVENT COORDINATOR:

Alexa Furtado

EDUCATION COORDINATOR:

Reada Evans

EDUCATORS:

Anne Fisher
Erika Klinkhammer
Jeanine Silversmith

EVENT STAFF:

Jordan Draper
Lauren Sullivan

In the spring, the Hazard Road entry road gate was installed by students at NACTC. The carpentry students built the wooden portion of the gate and a local mason was paid to install the stone piers.



Twenty-seven classes from Aquidneck Island public and private schools took eighteen field trips to Ballard Park throughout spring 2013. Homeschoolers from Rhode Island participated in a four session spring mini-series. One field trip for St. Michaels Country Day School was cancelled due to inclement weather. Cranston Calvert and Sullivan Schools did not participate in any FBP programming.

Lessons were taught while walking the preserve's trails and exploring the three-acre quarry meadow and vernal pond. Group sizes ranged from four to sixty-eight students. Ninety-four students took part in 'Animals' field trips, sixty-three students participated in 'Bugs of Ballard Park' field trip, two hundred twenty-nine students participated in 'Ecosystems/Habitats' and one hundred four students participated in the 'Geology' field trip. Children were from Aquidneck Island Day School, Cluny School, Coggeshall School, Portsmouth Middle School, Rogers High School, St. Michael's

Country Day School, Thompson Middle School and Underwood Elementary.

FBP also hosted twenty-five students from Underwood Elementary School's After School Program for weekly sessions and seven students from Newport Community School's Thompson Middle School program participated in eight weekly sessions. Students in these after school programs were 'Eco Explorers.' They studied all aspects of Ballard Park using scientific observation skills. Students studied animal life in the park, practiced mapping skills, and learned about the geology and history of Ballard Park. Students particularly enjoyed hiking the trails. Twenty-six Girl Scouts also visited Ballard Park to work on their insect badge.



After ten successful years, FBP retired its Annual Ballard Park Pumpkin Tour in 2013 and focused on adding more nature-related activities to its calendar. These included evenings of star gazing, a bird walk and several hikes. On April 6th astronomers Robert Horton and Scott MacNeill from Brown University's Astronomical Laboratories brought their large-scale telescopes to Ballard Park's quarry meadow for our first ever evening of sky gazing. It was a big hit with 72 attendees.

Naturalist Lauren Parmelee guided a bird walk on May 5th pointing out migratory species in Ballard Park and helped seven hikers identify birds by sight and sound. FBP hosted a Father's Day Hike in association with RI Families in Nature. Fifty people showed up to enjoy a hike which highlighted the history and ecology of the site. Yoga classes led by Karen Kuzminsky with Innerlight Yoga were held for ten weeks starting in mid-June.

A small fundraiser was held in May at Hibernian Hall. Dubbed the "Canyon Reunion" a few dozen people came to reminisce about the site's activities before it became Ballard Park when burned out cars and construction material littered the meadow. Committee members included

Frank Dwyer, Terry Houlihan, TR McGrath, Jon Morgera, Dan Randall, Patrick Shea, Bob Sullivan, Kevin Sullivan and Jimmy Toppa.



FBP's Annual Fundraiser was held at a new, stunning location: the lawn of Carol & Les Ballard's Edgehill estate on June 1, 2013. Les Ballard once again supplies spectacular wines for the event which were enjoyed by more than 200 guests. The event was sponsored by Fiduciary Trust International and guests received gift bags from Sequin.

Maisie Grace hosted a trunk show featuring Piranesi Jewelry. A portion of the proceeds were donated to FBP. Timmy & Dani Alsheimer donated a portion of proceeds from their yard sale to FBP too.

Friends of Ballard Park hosted four concerts as part of Jenkins Construction's

MUSIC MONTH series at Ballard Park in 2013. Five hundred sixty (560) people attended the concert series. The biggest turnout was for the Toe Jam Puppet Band morning concert on July 24th with 286 people. Despite a very foggy evening, 108 people turned out for the Newport Community Band concert while the other two concerts by The Big Cat Blues and The Moldy Suitcases averaged eighty attendees. Sponsor were Jenkins Construction Company, Kiki Finn, Nina Bestoso Poanessa, Ken & Tia Scuigulinsky and the Rhode Island State Senate. Co-sponsors were AARP, Newport Grand, People's Credit Union and Salve Regina University.



In the summer of 2013, Ninety- one students attended programming in Ballard Park from four summer camps: Aquidneck Island Day Camp, MLK, SRBA Sports Group and the YMCA. Each group went on a short hike, learned about the plants and animals found in Ballard Park, studied the rocks, caught insect specimens in the meadow, and participated in a scavenger hunt.



On Monday, August 5, 2013, FBP held its 4th Annual Mad Hatter (Iced) Tea Party. Two hundred forty people enjoyed tea sandwiches and beautifully decorated treats in the quarry meadow of Newport's Only Nature Preserve before (and after!) participating in an Alice in Wonderland-themed Scavenger Hunt along the park's trails. Area tweens and teens dressed as characters from Alice In Wonderland and helped children compete in educational activities and physical challenges. Children were playing checkers and tic tac toe with the March Hare, blowing bubbles with Alice, "flocking" flamingos with the Cheshire Cat, making roses for the Queen's garden, donning

wild wigs and hats with the Mad Hatter, scampering for a ball with a vowel in the Caterpillar's lair and answering the White Rabbit's riddles.

Children also had fun making their own crazy hat at a large crafts table and knocking around the croquet court. Event sponsors were McGrath Clambakes, Inc., NewportFed and The Newport Sweet Shoppe. Co-sponsors included Bartlett Tree Experts, Groovy Gator, Kiki Finn, KVH Industries, Michael Hayes for Kids and St. Michael's Country Day School.



The 2013 MOVIES ON THE ROCKS series featured four screenings and was supported by Citizens Bank, Cox Communications, Stagecraft Sound & Lighting, Ken & Tia Scigulinsky and the Rhode Island State Senate and co-sponsors Al & Marriam Ring, BR Arnold Construction and the Law Offices of Joseph Nicholson. For the first time, FBP hosted four screenings. *Mary Poppins* kicked things off and attracted 205 movie goers. *Grease* was shown the next week

to an audience of 243. Two hundred thirty-three people (233) were very excited to see *Moonrise Kingdom* on the big screen as scenes were filmed in Ballard Park. In fact, one scene featured the rock wall the screen was positioned in front of! And, we offered a film geared more towards adults (168 turning out) on the fourth week -- *Caddyshack*. Representatives from Citizens Bank handed out green glow sticks at several movies.

An end of the summer hike attracted more than two dozen hikers.

In the fall of 2013, the Audrain Building where FBP had its office was sold. New offices were leased on the 2nd floor of the US Post Office at 320 Thames Street with Les Ballard paying the rent every other month.

Also in fall 2013, twelve students from Thompson Middle School participated in the first session of 'Eco-explorers' and seven students participated from Rogers High School. During this session of 'Eco Explorers', student studied trees, ecosystems, orienteering, and birds. The high school students also worked on team work and community service. Sixteen Girl Scouts took a field trip to Ballard Park to work on their 'insect' patch. Star Kids also had a family day at Ballard Park with fourteen participants. The group focused on nature with a short hike, scavenger hunt, and teambuilding activities.



2014

Nineteen people turned out to learn about animal tracking and how animals survive on a January 25, 2014 hike led by naturalist Charles Avenengo. Several tracks were identified: coyote, eastern cottontail, white-tailed deer and white-footed mouse. Several birds were spotted as well. They included a red-tailed hawk, American Crow, American Robin, Rufous-sided Towhee, Song Sparrow and White-throated Sparrow.

Friends of Ballard Park held its 9th Annual Illuminated Garden presented by Ballard Exploration Company, Inc. on



Thursday, February 20 and Saturday, February 22, 2014. Friday evening's garden was cancelled due to wet weather. The event was well attended with 491 people on Thursday and 1,026 on Saturday evening.

Set up for the Illuminated Garden started the week before when Friends of Ballard Park's staff members began stringing lights on trees in the quarry meadow. The next week, they were joined by crews from TJ Brown Landscape, Amaral Landscaping, the City of Newport and Bartlett Tree Experts. Staff and volunteers

worked on the lower trees while the bucket truck operator and professional tree climbers saw to the higher spots.

That work was enhanced by nine exhibits made by area students. "Quahog Man" traveled from Tiverton High School and "Squirt, the Melville Mascot" made his way into town from Melville Elementary School in Portsmouth. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Newport County gave the event an international flair by creating a replica of the Eiffel Tower. Cluny School students created a cascading flower wall that greeted event goers near the entrance to the quarry meadow. Dave Connell oversaw the creation of "Julia" by Rogers High School students Hannah Casey, Julia Dufault and Nicole Jones and "The Fine Line" by Gillian Lessels, Brielle Hansen and Brenna Edward. Students at St. Michael's Country Day school erected beautiful sculptures made of wooden dowels, twine and tulle and children at Pell Elementary's after school program, Newport COZ, created Snowmen packing tape sculptures with FBP's educator Jaclyn Lewandowski.

Frank Dwyer, owner of Stagecraft Sound & Lighting, was back with his brilliant collection of specialty lighting. He had Ballard Exploration Company, Inc.'s logo blazing on the quarry wall and moving projections which children enjoyed trying to catch. Nikolas Pizza, Pour Judgment and Panera Bread donated food for volunteers and staff. Sponsors included National Grid and the RI State Senate and co-sponsors Bartlett Tree Experts, CAT Entertainment, Discover

2014

3,714 Event Attendees

822 Field Trip Participants

19,000 daffodils planted in quarry meadow

Pawtucket fire fighter alleges bike accident in Ballard Park and loses hand from flesh eating disease

Survey given to RHS students

First year for HALLOWEEN MOVIE NIGHT

FBP BOARD:

Carol C. Ballard
President

Colleen Quinn
Peggy Richmond
Marriam Ring
Tom Shevlin

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Colleen McGrath

EDUCATION

COORDINATORS:

Lauren Bissonnette
Jaclyn Lewandowski

EDUCATORS:

Janet Emison
Kelsey Gowen
Bridgette Mason

EVENT TEAM:

Jordan Draper
Kelly Malaguti
Erin Margolis
Colleen Murray
Hayden Pfeiffer
Kaya Randall
Wesley Ritter
Emily Small
Lauren Sullivan
Maddy Walker

Newport, Law Offices of Joseph J. Nicholson, Smith Horticulture, Senate President M. Teresa Paiva Weed and TJ Brown Landscape, Inc.



City of Newport arborist Charlie Ridolf (seen in photo left) led a hike through Ballard Park to identify various trees on March 29th. Along the 'tree safari', Mr. Ridolf identified a Black Cherry (also known as Choke Cherry), an English oak, black oak, Norway Maples, a beech tree, cherry blossoms, red maples, Hawthorne trees, ash trees, cedars Norwegian Maple trees and quaking aspen for the twenty-three attendees (seen left).

On April 27, 2014, 42 volunteers showed up to help with Earth Day activities. Bartlett Tree Experts applied three barrier treatments to help suppress blacklegged deer tick throughout the year. Kevin Kirby, Tucker Kirby, James Kirby, Jessica Kirby, Craig MacKay and Neil Henderson climbed the rock wall to remove invasive vegetation and a bike from a tree. Treads in the boardwalk were replaced.

On May 3rd, 43 people turned out for an evening of sky gazing with Robert Horton and Scott MacNeill. They were able to view the crescent moon, Jupiter and Mars. Two additional sky gazing events were held. One after The Moldy Suitcases concert on July 17th and another on September 20th.



From April 15 through June 25, 2014 FBP welcomed six hundred two (602) field trip and afterschool participants plus seventy-nine (79) children in public workshops. Three science classes from Rogers High School's ninth grade participated in a geology field trip to Ballard Park in May. One hundred and four students hiked Ballard Park's trails and learned about the three different rock types (sedimentary, igneous, and metamorphic).

Four classes from Hugh Cole

Elementary School participated in geology and insect themed field trips, wherein students learned about the three types of rock found in Ballard Park and collected and examined insects found in the Quarry Meadow with materials provided by FBP. The one hundred eighteen students spent three hours at the park over two days, many having never visited Ballard Park previous to this field trip.

Four classes (first, third, fourth, and fifth grades) from Cluny School came to Ballard Park. First and third



graders came one day to explore the vernal pond and study insects. Fourth and fifth graders came another day to learn about animals and plants. In total, eighty-one Cluny students visited the park over two days, walking to the park from their school due to the close proximity.

Two hundred students from Portsmouth Middle School's fourth grade visited Ballard Park to learn about animals and habitats over a two day period. During the field trip students were asked to recreate specific habitats after they visited ecosystems throughout the park. Trail safety was emphasized as students hiked the trails. Classes also visited the Breakers.

Two classes from the first and fifth grade classes at St. Michael's Country Day School visited Ballard Park in May to learn about animals and habitats, visiting the different habitats throughout the park. From Melrose School, fifty-two fourth grade students came to Ballard Park to learn

about geology. Students were given magnifying glasses and asked to examine the different rocks found in the park, and taught about the history and significance of Newport Granite.

In addition to fieldtrips, FBP also held four homeschool workshops, focusing on Ecosystems and Plants, Animals, and Butterflies and Insects. These sessions helped to spread awareness of the park's resources to a larger audience and educate children in a group setting on the wildlife who might not otherwise get to participate through a public or private school. Students responded enthusiastically to activities, and parent surveys indicated interest in continuing the program next year.

FBP also held educational programming during the Newport Public School System's Spring Vacation. Three sessions were held, the first being an "Insects and Vernal Pond" workshop, attended by three students on Good Friday. The second was a geology themed workshop with the Newport Recreation Department with thirteen students from a Spring Vacation Camp. The third session was a "Spring Fling", attended by seventeen students. Attendees played educational games which helped them to learn about

birds' habitats and migration patterns, the vernal pond and insect habitats in the Quarry Meadow.

On June 28th naturalist Charles Avenengo led an enthusiastic hike through Ballard Park in search of butterflies. The count for all of Aquidneck Island was at an all time low. Three different types of butterflies were spotted in Ballard Park – Cabbage White, Clouded Sulphur and Red Admiral.

In July 2014, Braden Leonard alleged he fell in Ballard Park while mountain biking and a thorn punctured his hand. His hand becomes infected and he claims he contracted a flesh-eating disease. His arm from the elbow to hand was amputated. Mr. Leonard contacted many press outlets, including *Inside Edition*, which ran stories about him contracting a "flesh eating disease" in Ballard Park. Several people remarked that they did not visit Ballard Park that summer in fear of catching such a disease.





Friends of Ballard Park hosted four concerts as part of Jenkins Construction's MUSIC MONTH series at Ballard Park in 2014. Five hundred eighty-six (586) people attended the concert series. Larry Brown's Swinglane Orchestra kicked off the series with a magical evening of music on July 9th attended by 111 people.

The concert for the Moldy Suitcases was rained out but forty-three enthusiastic fans turned out the

following night to hear them play. The always popular Toe Jam Puppet Band attracted the largest crowd with 312 attendees and Chelley, Bill & Dyl was a terrific way to finish up the month. The local favorites did not disappoint their 120 concert goers. Sponsors included Kiki Finn, Nina Bestoso Poanessa, Ken & Tia Scuigulinsky and the Rhode Island State Senate. Co-sponsors were Newport Grand, Salve Regina University and Stagecraft Sound & Lighting.

From July 8th to August 21, 2014 FBP welcomed 146 participants with 21 of those participants returning for more than one visit. Five organizations collaborated with FBP for summer programming: Countryside Children's Center, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center (MLK), Spouting Rock Beach Association (SRBA), The Newport Summer Learning Academy (SLA) and Newport Parks and Recreation Department.

On Monday, August 4, 2014, Friends of Ballard Park held its 5th Annual Mad Hatter (Iced) Tea Party. Two hundred nine people enjoyed tea sandwiches and beautifully decorated treats in the quarry meadow of Newport's Only Nature Preserve before (and after!) participating in an *Alice in Wonderland*-themed Scavenger Hunt along the park's trails. Area tweens and teens dressed as characters from *Alice In Wonderland* and helped children compete in a variety of challenges. Children were painting roses red with the Queen of Hearts played by Morgan Capodilupo, hat tossing with the Mad Hatter Ella Walker, finding the vowels with caterpillar Caitlyn Logan and getting dressed for the tea party with Margot Goddard who played Alice.

Children also had fun making their own crazy hat at a large crafts table and playing croquet. Sponsors were McGrath Clambakes, Inc., and The



Newport Sweet Shoppe. Co-sponsors included Bartlett Tree Experts, Groovy Gator, Kiki Finn and KVH Industries. Scavenger hunt winners were Patrick Bryan and Katie Margolis, Naura Younes, Kate Cruikshank and Kendall Cruikshank.





American Realty Capital was the title sponsor of the 2014 MOVIES ON THE ROCKS series which featured four screenings and was supported by sponsors Ken & Tia Scigulinsky, National Grid and the Rhode Island State Senate. Co-sponsors included BR Arnold Construction, Howard Johnson Inn, the Law Offices of Joseph Nicholson, Stagecraft Sound & Lighting and Zipcar. The series kicked off with a screening of *Jaws* which was the best attended with 313 people. *Harry Potter & The Sorcerer's Stone* attracted 182 people. Movie goers enjoyed popcorn courtesy of National Grid at screenings of *Happy Feet* (152 movie goers) and *The Jungle Book* (217 attendees).

In September 2014, FBP conducted a survey at Rogers High School to 639 students. Four hundred nineteen (419) students completed the survey with a majority of the students (76%) reporting that they had been to Ballard Park before versus 63% in 2005. The reported nighttime usage (8pm-12am) decreased

from 39% in 2005 to 16% in 2014. When asked “In your opinion, who uses Ballard Park the most and why are they there?” the most common use was walkers or hikers using the trail, at 39% of responses. Students participating in RHS classroom activities (33%), nature enthusiasts or birders looking at nature (32%), and people walking their dogs (32%) were the next most popular uses of the park. The negative response ‘teens for partying’ decreased from 28% in 2005 to 18% in 2014.

According to students, their most common reason for actually visiting Ballard Park was for a RHS classroom activity, with 54% of students reporting they had used the park for this purpose. This is almost five times as many students as in 2005, when only 11% of students reported this use. Similarly, 34% of students reported visiting the park for a school field trip, up from 14% in 2011.

Friends of Ballard Park offered one After School program in Fall 2014 at the Newport Community & Child Opportunity Zone at Pell School. The session entitled “Walks in the Parks” and started on October 1st and ran consecutively until November 12, 2014. Eleven children participated in the program which featured two visits to Ballard Park and three to Miantonomi Park. Two of the days it was raining so the group stayed on the Pell Campus and dissected owl pellets or played bird bingo.

October 2014: 19,000 daffodil bulbs are planted in the meadow as part of Newport’s Daffodillion project; 56 volunteers, students from Rogers High School, city and FBP staff helped to plant the daffodils in holes augered by city arborist Charlie Ridolf.



Bartlett Tree Experts applied three barrier treatments to help suppress blacklegged deer tick in 2014.

Friends of Ballard Park launched a new Halloween event in 2014.... People's Credit Union's Halloween Movie Night on Saturday, October 25th. The event featured two movies. One for children and a second scary movie for the older crowd plus a Halloween costume parade and contest and a meet and greet with members of the Newport Fire Department.



A public vote was held earlier in October to select the movies. Online voters picked "Hocus Pocus" for the early movie and the 1978 classic, "Halloween" for the second movie. The evening opened with a costume parade for children at 5:30 pm. Celebrity judges included Senate President Teresa Paiva Weed, Mayor Harry Winthrop, City Councilor Kate Leonard, Newport People's Credit Union Newport Branch Manager Marie Everett and Captain Kevin Garcia of the Newport Fire Department. Six

children were selected to receive grand prizes from The Newport Sweet Shoppe. All of the children in attendance received glow sticks from representatives of People's Credit Union, treat bags made by sponsor Alison Costa of New York Life and fire hats from members of the Newport Fire Department.

Bags of daffodil bulbs were also given to those interested by John Hirschboeck of the Daffodillion program. Close to 380 people attended the first movie with another 88 for the second screening which was shown after a brief intermission. Event sponsors included Senate President M. Teresa Paiva Weed, Joseph R. Paolino, Jr. and Gustave White Sotheby's International Realty. Co-sponsors were Alison Costa, New York Life, Ancient Order of Hibernians, Campaign to Re-Elect Kate Leonard, Harry Winthrop for Newport, Newport 1080, Newport FOP, Smith Horticulture, Stagecraft Sound & Lighting and The Newport Sweet Shoppe.



2015

FBP held its 10th Annual Illuminated Garden presented by Ballard Exploration Company, Inc. on February 19, 20 and 21, 2015. It was one of the coldest and snowiest winters on record so set up was a challenge. Charlie Ridolf used a tractor to move snow on the first day of installation allowing room for bucket trucks to hang lights. Crews from the City of Newport, Bartlett Tree Experts, Amaral Landscaping and TJ Brown Landscape assisted during the next three days.



Six exhibits were produced by area students. Under the direction of Dave Connell, Rogers High School students erected sculptures out of chicken wire in the forms of ballerinas and flowers. Children at Cluny School used aluminum panels to create their “By the Sea” display while St. Michael’s Country Day School students created colorful faux stained-glass windows. The event ran for three nights but closed early on Thursday evening due to bitter cold: 11 degrees (felt like -7!). Saturday night was the best attended with 321 people despite falling snow and cold. Total attendance was 661. Sponsors were National Grid and the Rhode Island State Senate. Co-sponsors included Bartlett Tree Experts, CAT Entertainment, Law Offices of Joseph J. Nicholson, McGrath Clambakes, Inc., Teresa Paiva Weed for Senate, Smith Horticulture and TJ Brown Landscape, Inc. Thanks to Erin Margolis and her daughters Katie and Ellie for working in the freezing cold!

On April 16th FBP invited all of the workers and volunteers who had planted daffodils the previous fall to stop by Ballard Park for stuffies and chowder provided by McGrath Clambakes, Inc. On April 18th FBP held a “Jazzy Bouquet Bar” in conjunction with Newport Daffy Days to



celebrate the blooming daffodils... which hadn’t quite started blooming. Saxophonist Ben Shaw and guitarist Mark Medeiros played jazz music from the American songbook and FBP had spring flowers for sale. It was the first warm day of the season and three hundred sixty-seven people turned out to enjoy the sunshine, buy a bouquet, listen to the music and take in the flowers. On April 19th students of RI Ballet Theater performed a “Waltz of the Flowers” in front of 75 people in the quarry meadow.



Two boardwalks were replaced by Smith Horticulture in 2015 at a cost of \$2,335. The Hazard Road gate was painted by volunteers at the Earth Day Clean Up on April 25th. Signs received a fresh coat of paint as well. There were 27 volunteers.

The Cultural Landscape Foundation selected two dozen local sites to give tours on May 9, 2015 as part of a “What’s Out There” weekend. FBP executive director, Colleen McGrath, led a one and a half hour tour for fifteen people through Ballard Park.

Three dozen people turned up to hear Robert Horton and Scott MacNeill from Brown University explain the spring sky. The crowd got to peer into the duo's high-powered telescopes to see a crescent moon, Jupiter, Venus and Saturn.

Les Ballard hosted a fundraiser for Friends of Ballard Park on June 6, 2015 under a tent at Edgehill. He provided amazing wines for 225 supporters. Costume jeweler Sequin provided attendees with a parting gift bag. Representative Marvin Abney awarded a citation from the State of Rhode Island recognizing Carol & Les Ballard for their commitment and dedication to public service along with a grant from the House of Representatives in the amount of \$2,000.

From May 26, 2015 through June 16, 2015, Ballard Park welcomed 301 students from five different schools. Three public schools, Portsmouth Middle School (170 students), Rogers High School (25), and Melrose Avenue School (55), and two private schools, St. Michael's Country Day School (13) and Cluny School (38), participated in a total of ten field trips on topics ranging from animals to geology, habitats and ecosystems.



FBP conducted two geology field trips for 25 students from Rogers High School. Students studied the history, formation, and identification of all three types of rock. The freshmen students thoroughly enjoyed this field trip, even taking the time to write and sign letters thanking their FBP environmental educators. The habitats and ecosystems field trip, in which 55 fourth-graders from Melrose Avenue School in Jamestown were enrolled, also led participants through the park's trail system. One-hundred-seventy fourth-graders from Portsmouth Middle School participated in a fun eco-scouting mission that led teams of students through the quarry meadow and around the trails on a scavenger hunt. The students from Portsmouth, as well as the 13 first-graders from St. Michael's Country Day (for a total of 183 students), were

2015

2,858 Attendees

619 Field Trip Participants

The Ballard Family offers a 2-for-1 matching grant and donates \$38,400

Two sections of boardwalks fully replaced

Bat House donated by kids at MLK Center

FOUNDER:

Carol C. Ballard

FBP BOARD:

Peggy Richmond
President

Leslie Ballard Hull
Cullen Geiselman
Colleen Quinn
Leslie Reed
Marriam Ring
Tom Shevlin

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Colleen McGrath

EDUCATORS:

Lauren Bissonnette
Darien Coffee
Colleen Fogg
Olivia Nary
Hayden Pfeiffer
Sarah Robinson
Maggie Sackrider

EVENT TEAM:

Sophia Boiani
Sandra Fogg
Dan Graves
Jayme Johnson
Gabrielle Lopez
Kelly Malaguti
Erin Margolis
Katie Margolis
Ellie Margolis
Tess Margolis
Will McKeon
Rob Rodrigues
Samantha Smithwick

introduced to a number of the different bugs and insects that thrive in the uncut quarry meadow. Using a variety of bug-catching tools supplied by FBP, students were able to capture, observe, and release ladybird beetles, meadow spittlebugs, damselflies, invasive Japanese beetles, cabbage white butterflies, and many other tiny critters. Students from Cluny School and St. Michael's Country Day School participated in animal-themed field trips.

From June 24th to August 20, 2015, FBP welcomed one hundred eighty-three students to participate in its Summer Educational Programming, with twenty-one of those participants returning for more than one visit. Participating organizations were Countryside Children's Center, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center, Sports Group at Spouting Rock Beach Association and YMCA's Summer Camp and Gymnastics Camp.

Weekly Children's Workshops brought thirty-seven students to Ballard Park. Local students came from Aquidneck Island and Saunderstown. Out of town visitors came from Florida, Texas, Arizona, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. Workshops covered a wide variety of themes: habitats, raptors, dragonflies, frogs, rocks and insects. Each workshop included games, a nature hike to highlight real examples of the theme, and inquiry-based activities.



Friends of Ballard Park hosted four concerts as part of Jenkins Construction's MUSIC MONTH series at Ballard Park in 2015. Four hundred eleven (411) people attended the series. The biggest turnout was for the Toe Jam Puppet Band morning concert on July 22nd with 278 people. Two of the concerts were moved due to inclement weather. Attendance was always lower when an event got bumped. Forty-seven (47) people came for the Newport Community Band concert and twenty-seven

(27) for The Rusty Cheetahs. Meehan Krous garnered a crowd of fifty-nine (59).

Concert sponsors were Kiki Finn, Nina Bestoso Poanessa, Ken & Tia Scuigulinsky and the Rhode Island State Senate. Co-sponsors included Harvard Pilgrim HealthCare Foundation, Heatherwood Rehabilitation & Health Care Center, KVH Industries and Salve Regina University.

The 2015 MOVIES ON THE ROCKS series featured four screenings. Eight hundred sixteen (816) people attended. *Jurassic Park* was the most well attended screening with 352 attendees. *Mrs. Doubtfire*, *Star Trek Generations* and *The Breakfast Club* attracted 233, 49 and 189 people. Moviegoers enjoyed free popcorn provided by National Grid at several of the screenings.



Prior to each movie, a short film provided by FLICKERS Rhode Island International Film Festival was shown. Shorts included *Rabbit and Deer*, *The Boy in the Bubble*, *The Present* and *This Way Up*. The series was sponsored by National Grid and co-sponsored by the Rhode Island

State Senate, RI House of Representatives and Ken & Tia Scigulinsky. Supporters were BR Arnold Construction, Law Offices of Joseph J. Nicholson and Kiki Finn.



On August 17th children from the Dr. Martin Luther, King Jr. Community Center donated a bat house to Ballard Park as part of their summer service learning project. The children came to the park to watch City of Newport workers Charlie Ridolf and Mike O'Brien climb the tree to install the bat house. The kids happily explained that a single bat can eat up to 500 mosquitos per hour and were thrilled to watch the tree climbers scale the forty foot tree to secure the bat house. The first movie the following summer was Hotel Transylvania and there plenty of bats flying around the screen thanks to the bat house!

On August 24th a bus load of students from Roger Williams University came to provide community service to Ballard Park as part of their Service Day Clean Up in partnership with the Newport Tree Society. It was raining upon arrival and there were too many students to manage. The rock wall of the park was successfully cleared. Charlie Ridolf and Mike O'Brien were on hand to chip plant materials. A September 8th clean up with Salve Regina University students was more successful due to the smaller number of participants: 23.

Bartlett Tree Experts applied three barrier treatments to help suppress blacklegged deer tick again in 2015.

During the months of September and October, FBP welcomed 53 private school students and 7 local girl scouts. The second graders from St. Philomena participated in a field trip covering habitats and geology, and Girl Scouts from Troop 2 participated in a field trip to complete their animal habitat badge.

FBP also hosted three home school classes, five story time sessions, one afterschool workshop and a Columbus Day children's workshop. A total of 15 children, ages 3 to 15, participated in these programs which covered a wide variety of subjects. The Home School Discovery Series were hour and a half classes held. The three classes in September and October covered adaptations, habitats, and bats.

On September 27, 2015 naturalist Lauren Parmelee (seen right) led a bird walk pointing out birds and interesting fall happenings like Blue Jays calling to one another and spectacular spider webs. Birds spotted included Blue jays, Catbird, Eastern Towhee, Red belly woodpecker, Robin and a Tufted titmouse.





People's Credit Union was the title sponsor of the Halloween Movie Night on October 17, 2015. Unfortunately, the movie crew could not get the screen up so the event was limited to the costume contest which children thoroughly enjoyed. More than two hundred people showed up. Celebrity judges included Senate President M. Teresa Paiva Weed, Newport Mayor Jeanne Marie Napolitano, People's Credit Union Newport branch manager Marie Everett and Newport Fire Captain Kevin Garcia. The Newport Sweet Shoppe made gift baskets for six winners.

Winning cutest costume awards were Zachary Murphy, age 2, for his monkey outfit and "fast food" Brewer (3) and Hawkin (1) Powers. Julianna Sanders, age 9, and Kaitlyn Souza, age 7, swept the scariest category for their dead princess and spider queen ensembles while most original was awarded to mummy

Atticus Noponen (5) and Mathew Palmer (5) and Kaya Harvey (5) who donned KISS attire. Representatives from People's Credit Union gave glow sticks to children and John Hirschboeck from the Newport Daffodillion project distributed 2,500 daffodil bulbs to adults.

On November 14, 2015, FBP worked with local Girl Scouts and volunteers to plant 1,000 daffodil bulbs



along the Hazard Road entry road.

TJ Brown Landscape auger` several dozen holes and Colleen McGrath and Sarah Robinson hand dug the remaining areas. Thirty-three volunteers helped to place bulbs in holes and cover them.



Friends of Ballard Park hosted three after school programs to make sculptures for the 11th Annual Illuminated Garden. The first started at the Newport Community School on November 17th. A collaboration with FAB Newport, students created a giant Lite Brite with FBP educator Sarah Robinson and Ben

Ellcome and Nick Logler from FAB Newport. Thirteen fifth and sixth graders participated in the eight week program which received press coverage from several local papers including coverage on the front page of *Newport This Week*. The sculpture was a huge hit at the Illuminated Garden.

Friends of Ballard Park offered an after school program with the Middletown Child Opportunity Zone (MCOZ) at Gaudet Middle School beginning December 14, 2015 and ending January 25, 2016. Entitled "Make yourself glow!" the program involved creating packing tape sculptures for the Illuminated Garden. Six 6th and 7th graders participated in the eight week program. A second program was held at Pell Elementary School. Eight students made milk jug sculptures.

In celebration of the anniversary of the 25th anniversary of the creation of Ballard Park, the Ballard family announced a very generous "Two-for-One" Annual Fund challenge grant for all donations received in November and December 2015. The response was outstanding with \$19,120 received from park supporters and a matching grant provided in the amount of \$38,240 from Les Ballard.

2016

Attendance at public events at Ballard Park hit a four year high in fy2016 thanks to terrific weather and great publicity for the 11th Annual Illuminated Garden in February. The event was even noted on *Travel & Leisure's* January 20, 2016 blog "How to Have the Perfect Winter Day in Newport, Rhode Island" by Alex Schechter. Mr. Schechter advised readers to "veer off the famous Ocean Drive to discover Ballard Park's sleepy 13-acre quarry meadow, parts of which overlook the Atlantic Ocean. In February, the park will host its annual Illuminated Garden, a free event in which visitors can stroll the grounds at sunset and enjoy thousands of lights strung through trees".



The 11th Annual Illuminated Garden was our best ever with a record breaking 3,445 attendees on February 18, 19 & 29, 2016. On-site set up for the event began the Friday before when Charlie Ridolf and Mike O'Brien from the City of Newport brought a bucket truck and climbed trees to install lights. On Wednesday they were joined by tree climbers Angel, Jose and Sam from Bartlett Tree Experts, former board member Frank Amaral and a team of volunteers from the Boys & Girls Clubs of Newport County's Torch Club, local Boy Scout Troop #3, the Margolis Family and Danny Murphy.



The landscapers' installations were enhanced by seven exhibits made by area students. Under the direction of Dave Connell, Rogers High School (RHS) students created "Stars Under Stars". The red carpet display featured portraits of students made from typography. RHS student, Cory Veth, made "The Blue Bat" sculpture of chicken wire, saran wrap and lights. St. Michael's Country Day students with the guidance of their teacher Robert Kaladjian created a stunning display with tires donated by Newport Bicycle, tissue paper and acrylic. Artists Kim Gardner and Brittany Mathis constructed "Mystic Tent" which children had fun walking through. In the months prior to this event, FBP hosted three after school programs for student groups wishing to construct their own lighted installations. Representatives from FabNewport helped students at the Newport Community School construct a giant Lite Brite. Children at the Newport COZ made sculptures from milk jugs while students at the Middletown COZ created packing tape sculptures which were suspended from



the quarry wall to look like rock climbers.

The boardwalk replacement project continued in 2016. Smith Horticulture replaced a third section of boardwalks at a cost of \$2,585. All of the planks were pulled out and new planks installed. There was an Earth Day Clean Up on April 30th and Bartlett Tree Experts donated three tick spraying treatments.

Friends of Ballard Park hosted monthly hikes to encourage the public to visit Ballard Park and share information about the site. The April 16th Tree Tour was the most popular of the year with seventeen attendees. A few days later, FBP was honored to host a hike for fourteen members of the Lions Club visiting from Newport's Sister City Imperia, Italy.



From March 24th through June 22, 2016 FBP welcomed six hundred and fifty (650) fieldtrip participants ranging in age from first to twelfth grade. Students came from Rogers High School (47

students), Pell Elementary School (131), St. Michael's Country Day School (12), Forest Avenue Elementary (79), The Pennfield School (30), Portsmouth Middle School (173), Kingston Hill Academy (40), and The Primrose Hill School (73) visited Ballard Park on an educational field trip. Two horticulture classes from Rogers High School participated in a new Invasive and Native plants program. Other field trip topics were 'Bugs of Ballard Park', geology, habitats and ecosystems.

FBP also held educational programming during the Newport Public School System's Spring Vacation. Newport Family & Child Opportunity Zone at Pell School brought fifty-three (53) elementary students visited Ballard Park for a scavenger hunt and to learn about insects.

Four homeschool workshops, focusing on trees, animals, habitats, and bugs, were held in Spring 2016. These sessions helped educate children in a group setting on the outdoors and wildlife who might not otherwise get to participate through a public or private school. Students responded enthusiastically to activities, and post surveys (93%) indicated interest in continuing the program next year. Twelve children participated.



Friends of Ballard Park invited the public to celebrate spring and

2016

5,304 Event Attendees

1,035 Field Trip Participants

3rd Boardwalk Section replaced

Fourteen members of the Lions Club of Imperia, Italy tour Ballard Park

FOUNDER:

Carol C. Ballard

FBP BOARD:

Peggy Richmond
President

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Marriam Ring
Tom Shevlin

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Colleen McGrath

EDUCATION COORDINATORS:

Meaghan Hebert
Sarah Robinson

EDUCATORS:

Darienne Coffee
Colleen Fogg
Jeremy Forsythe
Lauren Sullivan

EVENT TEAM:

Mark Bongiovanni
Vinny Derobbio
Alexa Furtado
Dan Graves
Kelly Malaguti
Katie Margolis
Bryce Murphy
Pat Oakley
Ali Quirk
Caroline Quirk
Rob Rodrigues
Christine Sicilian
Eliza Taylor

the City of Newport's Daffodil Days Festival at its 2nd Annual Daffy Bouquet Bar on April 23, 2016. Jamestowners Ed & Ted were on hand to serenade event goers with a mix of classic rock and folk songs. Beautiful spring blooms were available for purchase. Local landscaper Liz Stouffer volunteered to make arrangements for event goers incorporating native branches and



plants from the park with flowers available for purchase. Children enjoyed lawn games set up in the quarry meadow along with the appearance of Caitlyn McCabe who was dressed as the Cheshire Cat. Cyclists participating in Bike Newport's three mile "Tour De Jonquilles Bike Ride" joined the fun when their afternoon ride ended in the park's quarry meadow. One hundred thirty-six attended.

Patty O'Neill volunteered to lead a Bird Walk through Ballard Park on May 27th. Ms. O'Neill identified different birds by sight and sound as she

led a hike through the forested trails. The tour ended in the quarry meadow with a mob of crows circling overhead which was quite a site.

On June 4, 2016, Les Ballard hosted FBP's annual fundraiser under a tent at his Edgehill estate. More than 240 supporters attended including early board members Ginny Purviance, Mary Hayes and Frank Amaral. Sequin provided gift bags to event goers.



In the summer of 2016 campers from Boys & Girls Club of Newport County, Camp Cluny, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center, Spouting Rock Beach Association and the YMCA Discovery and E.P.I.C camps visited Ballard Park. From July 6th to August 18th FBP welcomed two hundred and twenty-seven (227) fieldtrip participants ranging in age from three to eleven.

Friends of Ballard Park hosted four concerts as part of Jenkins Construction's MUSIC MONTH at Ballard Park in July. Five hundred eighty-eight (588) people attended the series. As in past years, the biggest turnout was for the Toe Jam Puppet Band morning concert on July 20th with 273 people. It was the band's tenth appearance at Ballard Park. The Navy Band Northeast and their rock band, Rhode Island Sound attracted 114 people on July 6th and paid tribute to those who served in the armed forces as well as their families. Local rock band The Ubiquitones had 80 concert goers. Chelly, Bill & Dyl closed the series with 121 people in their audience including a lot of children who loved being invited up on stage to sing and dance with lead singer Chelley Smith. Sponsors were the RI State Senate, Kiki



Finn, Nina Bestoso, Ken & Tia Scigulinsky. Co-sponsors include Heatherwood Rehabilitation & Health Care Center, KVH Industries and Salve Regina University.



FBP hosted four movies as part of its 2016 MOVIES ON THE ROCKS series. Eight hundred twenty-eight (828) people attended the series. The biggest turnout (257) was for *Karate Kid* on August 24th. Students from Newport Martial Arts gave an impressive demonstration prior to the movie and Newport Community Police Officer Joshua Wildes was on hand to interact with kids. Three additional movies were shown: eighties classics *Indiana Jones & the Last Crusade* (140 movie goers) and *Dirty Dancing* (215 event attendees). The series opened with the animated feature *Hotel Transylvania* with 216 people. FLICKERS Rhode Island International Film Festival provided a short before each of the feature films. They included *Centipede and Toad* by Anna Khmelevskaya, *Moom* by Daisuke Tsutsumi and Robert Kondo and *Taking Flight* by Brandon Oldenburg. Sponsors were the Rhode Island State Senate, RI House of Representatives and Ken & Tia Scigulinsky. Co-sponsors included BR Arnold Construction, Cox, Howard Johnson Inn, Kiki Finn, National Grid, RI Film & TV Office and St. Clare Newport.

In September and October of 2016, FBP hosted seven girls from Newport Girl Scout Troop # 85 and thirteen homeschoolers on field trips. The Daisies and Brownies Girls Scouts of Troop 85 visited Ballard Park to complete their outdoor adventurer badge. The Home School classes were hour and a half classes held on. The four classes in September and October covered insects, decomposition, invasive & native plants and bats. Lessons included investigations rather than games to meet parents' requests.

People's Credit Union presented a Halloween Dance Party & Costume Contest in the quarry meadow of Ballard Park on Saturday, October 15, 2016. One hundred seventy people turned out, many of them children in costumes. In addition to the costume parade and contest, the event featured spooky tunes by DJ Butch, giveaways from People's Credit



Union and the Newport Police Department and a crafts table. Celebrity judges included Senate President Teresa Paiva Weed, Newport Mayor Jeanne Marie Napolitano, Kiki Finn and People's Credit Union Newport branch manager, Lori Marshall. The Newport Sweet Shoppe made beautiful gift baskets filled with Halloween treats that were awarded to the winners. The cutest awards went to Lucy Loyola, 9 months of Newport Lucy & Penny Condella, 2 years old, Newport. Scariest awards went to Max Eldert, 5, Portsmouth Julianna Souza, 10, Kaitlyn Souza, 8, of Newport. Winners of most original were The Murphy Family of Newport Brewer Powers, 4 years old, Middletown. Sponsors were Bartlett Tree Experts, The Newport Sweet Shoppe and Teresa Paiva Weed. Co-sponsors included Harry Winthrop for Newport, IAFF Newport 1080, IHOP Middletown, Kate Leonard, McGrath Clambake, Inc. and Newport FOP.

FBP incorporated a popular topic into its November 12, 2016 hike: mushrooms and foraging. Ryan Bouchard and Emily Schmidt of the Mushroom Foundation led the hikes which attracted 51 people. The duo pointed out mushrooms as the group hiked Ballard Park and shared foraging secrets.



FBP offered two afterschool programs to build displays for the 12th Annual Illuminated Garden. Eleven students from Gaudet School participated in the Middletown Child Opportunity Zone's seven week program, entitled "An Illuminated City" which ran from December 6, 2016 to January 24, 2017. A complimenting program ran at the Newport Community School

from December 1, 2016 to January 26, 2017. Thirteen students enrolled to created replicas of iconic Newport buildings from recycled materials.

2017

In 2017, Colleen McGrath petitioned the city to have the Hazard Road entrance assigned an address so people could find it on GPS and FBP could stop using 1 Ocean Heights Road. The city gave the entrance the address of: 21 Hazard Road. Thanks to Paul Finn for undertaking the effort.

Ballard Exploration Company, Inc. presented the 12th Annual Illuminated Garden on February 23, 24 & 24, 2017 which was attended by 3,146 people. The event featured displays by area students and artists, lights installed by tree climbers, FBP staff and volunteers. Robert Kalaidjian, an art teacher at St. Michael's Country Day School, continued to awe us with his exhibits. For his 2017 display, Robert secured materials from Recycling for Rhode Island Education to oversee the creation of "Awkward Empire" which



was installed along the bank of the vernal pond. David Connell from the Newport Area Career & Technical Center at Rogers High School guided graphic design students through the process of building six unique exhibits. Eliza Lopes, Michaela Mathews, Costa McKeon, Jordan Branco and Tyler Miller built "Beach Volleyball" out of wire, re-bar, zip ties and lights. Danielle Ouellette and Samantha Sharp made shadow boxes themed "Blooming Box" and "Cinderella". Miren Arambarri and Aubrey Baker created "Blue Birds" while Ashley Bronk designed and

fabricated “Gastro Pods”. Rupri Kaur was the inspiration for Ryan Anderson’s well received “Tree Woman”.

Thompson Middle School art teacher Nicolle Icart used Richard Morris Hunt to motivate students to build a miniature block of buildings using cd covers and pop stix. Jessica Coriander, a parent at the Cluny School, coordinated the “By the Seashore” installation which she said was inspired by Auguste Renoir’s famous painting and made from recycled bottles, cut, painted and applied to chicken wire.

Sponsors for the Illuminated Garden were Bartlett Tree Experts, City of Newport, National Grid and the Rhode Island State Senate. Co-sponsors included A1 Roofing, Discover Newport, McGrath Clambakes, Inc., Teresa Paiva Weed for Senate, Rhode Island House of Representatives and TJ Brown Landscape.



Between May 3rd and June 21, 2017, FBP welcomed three hundred and forty (340) students from Rogers High School, Pell Elementary School, St. Michael’s Country Day School, and Portsmouth Middle School, as well as thirty-one (31) local home-schooled students, to Ballard Park to participate in educational field trips. Students from grades K-12 enjoyed topics that introduced them to the flora, fauna, geology, and the history of Ballard Park.

Patty O’Neill volunteered to lead her third bird walk through Ballard Park on May 7th. Ms. O’Neill identified different birds by sight and sound as the group walked through the forested trails and into the quarry meadow.

The Ballard and Hull families hosted the 10th Annual Fundraiser on Saturday, June 3 under a tent at their Edgehill estate. Some 240 guests enjoyed lovely wines selected by Les Ballard, the stunning setting and music by Chelley, Bill & Dyl. Sequin provided attendees with gift bags.

2017

5,446 Event
Attendees

376 Field Trip
Participants

Quarry entry
assigned the address
21 Hazard Road by
the City of Newport

18,000 new daffodil
bulbs planted in the
meadow

FOUNDER:

Carol C. Ballard

FBP BOARD:

Peggy Richmond
Colleen Quinn
TJ Brown
Leslie Ballard Hull
Leslie Reed

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Colleen McGrath

EDUCATORS:

Devin Butler
Gabrielle Demellion
Colleen Fogg
Jeremy Forsythe

EVENT TEAM:

Emma Bryan
Alexa Furtado
Katie Margolis
Bryce Murphy
Ali Quirk
Caroline Quirk
John Richmond III
Rob Rodrigues
Anna Taber

In the summer of 2017, campers from Countryside Daycare, Dr. Martin Luther King Community Center, Spouting Rock Beach Association, Summer Learning Academy, and YMCA EPIC and RAVE camps visited Ballard Park to participate in educational programs. From June 23, 2017 to August 23, 2017, FBP welcomed two hundred-eleven (211) fieldtrip participants and forty (40) children's workshop attendees ranging in age from four to twelve. Representatives from the YMCA designated Ballard Park its 'outdoor classroom' for summer campers.

Jenkins Construction's MUSIC MONTH series at Ballard Park had its biggest turnout with 902 concert goers - almost TWICE as many as 2016. The series featured a nice range of music from 'outlaw country' to reggae. Johnny Cash tribute band, Folsom, opened the series on July 12th. Luis Mateos II's impressive baritone voice filled the quarry meadow with up tempo songs that sixty-one audience members enjoyed dancing to.

The Larry Brown Swinglance Orchestra made its second appearance at Ballard Park. The seventeen piece band of professional musicians played jazz, swing and big band music under the direction of band leader Don Chilton. Fifty-five concert goers were treated to the sweet vocals of Carroll Venable and Jimmy Winters too. Back for their 11th performance at Ballard Park, was The Toe Jam Puppet Band. Tom, Vinny & Chris had the 371 children in the quarry meadow "moovin' and groovin'" to their unique songs on the morning of July 26th. Local reggae legends, The Ravers, closed the series on the evening of July 26th with the largest concert crowd in years - 415 people. The family-friendly reggae show drew



many residents and was a fun evening of dancing and music. Sponsors were AARP Rhode Island, Kiki Finn, Nina Bestoso Poanessa, Ken & Tia Scigulinsky. Co-sponsors included KVH Industries, Salve Regina University, Turner Scott and TJ Brown Landscape.



MOVIES ON THE ROCKS 2017 opened on Wednesday, August 2nd with a screening of *Finding Dory*.

Prior to the film, movie goers had fun visiting with representatives from Clean Ocean Access and URI's Tick Encounter Resource Center who shared great information about keeping our oceans clean and spotting ticks with the 168 attendees. Tim Burton's eighties classic *Beetlejuice* was the most well attended film with 355 attendees. One hundred sixty-two (162) movie goers had fun watching Alfred Hitchcock's thriller, *The Birds*, as did 207 sci fi fanatics at *Star Wars Rogue One*. Prior to each feature film, FLICKERS Rhode Island International Film Festival provided a short film to screen. They included *A Tooth Tale*, *Daisy Chain*, *Catch It* and *Snack Attack*. Sponsors were Cox, Ken & Tia Scigulinsky and the Rhode Island State Senate. Co-sponsors included BR Arnold Construction, DaPonte's Landscaping Services, Kiki Finn, National Grid, RI Film & TV Office, Savings Institute Bank & Trust and St. Clare Newport.

Astronomers Bob Horton and Scott MacNeill from Brown University's Ladd Observatory were back at Ballard Park on September 17th to share their knowledge of the evening skies and high-

powered telescopes. Twenty-six star gazers enjoyed viewing Saturn and deep sky objects like nebulae, star clusters and galaxies through the astronomers telescopes.



New York choreographer Teresa Fellion chose Ballard Park as the site for her work ‘en masse’ as part of Island Moving Company’s Open for Dancing. Violinist Alicia Ruggiero, Choral director Elizabeth Woodhouse and a half dozen dancers from the community performed the piece six times over the weekend of September 23rd. One hundred thirty-four people attended.

In fall 2017, the city replanted 18,000 daffodils in the meadow of Ballard Park as the bulbs had not bloomed well over the past two years.

People Credit Union’s HALLOWEEN DANCE PARTY & COSTUME CONTEST was held on Sunday, October 15, 2017 at Ballard Park. At 1 pm, the quarry meadow was filled with 142 energetic children (and their parents) in wonderful costumes who enjoyed dancing to Halloween-tunes played by DJ Butch, goodie bags from People’s Credit Union, Halloween-themed games and dissecting owl pellets. At 2 pm, the children lined up for the Costume Parade. Celebrity judges included People’s Credit Union Newport branch manager, Lori Marshall, Catherine Milinaire Cushing and Kiki Finn. The Newport Sweet Shoppe made beautiful gift baskets filled with Halloween treats that were awarded to the winners. Cutest awards went to Nathan Tarducci, 1, of Middletown Evelyn Anderson, 3, of Newport. Winners of most original costume were Brewer and Hawkins Powers, age 5 & 3, of Middletown Kelly Pullar, 7, of Newport. Scariest costume awards were presented to Eleanor Joffre, 8, and Atticus Npolonen, 7, of Newport Willie Ziegler, 10, of Newport. Sponsors for the event were Bartlett Tree Experts and The Newport Sweet Shoppe. Co-sponsors included the City of Newport, IAFF Newport 1080, IHOP Middletown, Kate Leonard, McGrath Clambakes, Inc. and Newport FOP.



Two afterschool programs were offered to create displays for the 13th Annual Illuminated Garden. “Illuminated Galaxy” at Middletown COZ at Gaudet Middle School had seven students building planets and aliens in packing tape sculptures for six weeks starting on December 12, 2017. Nineteen elementary school students participated in a seven week program at Pell Elementary School. They also created sculptures of planets and aliens.

2018

Friends of Ballard Park scheduled the 13th Annual Illuminated Garden for February 22, 23 & 24, 2018. There were seventeen works made and installed by area students. Many were created by NACTC students under the direction of instructor David Connell including “87” by John Hermes and Caeli Palmer, “A Blue Moon” by Cassidy Adroved, “Ellie the Elephant” by Jack Alexander and Jordan Branco, “Hank the Octopus” by Michaela Mathews, Graeme Clougher and Hunter Hanson, “Melvin the Giraffe” by Miren Arambarri and Ryan Anderson. “Mufasa” by Meg Turner and Jane Leys, “Pure H2O” by Ryan Collum, “The Cube of Light” by Ezra Monteiro, “Crazy Bees” by Lily McCarthy and Marley Gifford, “Tic, Tac, Toe” by Tyler Miller, Matthew Spring, Graeme Clougher and Cassidy Adroved. “The Long Way Home” by Meg Turner, Caeli Palmer, Estela Catalan and Matthew Spring. “Trusty Tree Tap” by Aubrey Baker and Hunter Hanson. “Zip Lining Away” by Samantha Sharp and Katelyn Shemeley.



Other displays included “Illuminated Galaxy” packing tape sculptures of planets, aliens and spaceships by students at the Newport COZ at Pell Elementary and Middletown COZ at Gaudet. “Let the Light Guide Your Way” by students at All Saints Academy under the direction of Jessica Coriander. “SpaceX Reflections” by Lawn Avenue Middle School. Instructor: Charlene Tuttle. “The Eyes Have It” by St. Michael’s Country Day School students and instructor Robert Kalaidjian.

Unfortunately, the event was cancelled all three nights due to wet weather. The forecast called

for a Nor Easter the following weekend so the event could not be rescheduled.



On March 14, 2018 the oldest tree in Ballard Park located along the loop trail at the end of the boardwalk fell during a Nor'easter. One of the trunks of the magnificent red maple tree was cut and moved to the side by City of Newport crews. The other trunk was left over the trail. Both sections sprouted regrowth in the spring. Quaking aspen trees in the meadow didn't fair so well. Their trunks showed signs of stress most likely costed by deer. FBP requested the city fence the area around the trees to encourage growth.



On April 21, 2018, FBP hosted a clean-up and free tour of Ballard Park which it tied to Earth Day and Newport's Daffy Days. One scout group signed up to participate but many more arrived to help – 42 in all. It was the second sunny day we'd had in a long time so there was a huge turnout for the hike: 65 people. The daffodils were blooming so there were also a lot of people walking in to see them. Two days later, eleven students from St. George's School selected Ballard Park as their community service day site. They pruned trails, picked up trash, removed graffiti from the electrical box and picked up glass.

Between May 24 and June 14, 2018, Friends of Ballard Park welcomed one hundred sixty-nine (169) students from Pell Elementary School and St. Michael's Country Day School to Ballard Park to participate in educational field trips. A class of sixteen (16) first-graders from St. Michael's Country Day School visited Ballard Park in May to learn about the bugs, animals, and habitats of the park. During their visit, students embarked on a nature hike and were given tools to catch bugs in the meadow. Eight fourth grade classes from Newport's Pell School visited Ballard Park over the course of four days. Students hiked the trails, learning about the three ecosystems (meadow, pond, and forest),

2018

1,587 Event Attendees

376 Field Trip Participants

Illuminated Garden cancelled due to wet weather

Oldest tree in Ballard Park falls

Circuit in Electric Panel replaced

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FBP BOARD:

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Colleen Quinn
TJ Brown
Leslie Reed

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Colleen McGrath

EDUCATORS:

Paige McLaughlin
Megan Moschetti

EVENT TEAM:

Emma Bryan, Mia Ceglie, Alexa Furtado, Katie Margolis, Ali Quirk, Caroline Quirk, Rob Rodrigues, Anna Taber, Eliza Taylor

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and identifying animals and tracks. During exploration of the park, the children spotted grasshoppers, milk snakes, daring jumping spiders, lizards, snails, squirrels, bunnies, and birds such as the Gray Catbird, Eastern Towhee, and American Robin.

Forty-four people turned out for the May 28 Mushroom Hike led by Ryan Bouchard and Emily Schmidt. Sixteen people came for a hike on Father's Day on June 17th.

In June 2018, Toner Electric replaced the 200 AMP electric panel along Hazard Road. It was corroded due to weather and mice had eaten some of the wires. A grant from the Aquidneck Island Land Trust covered the \$900 costs to repair.



Between July 3 and August 24, 2018, Friends of Ballard Park welcomed two hundred and five (205) students from the Newport Country YMCA, the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center, and Newport Parks and Recreation to participate in educational summer camp field trips. Thirty-two (32) campers from the MLK Center studied botany. As they hiked the trails of Ballard Park, children spotted mushrooms, blackberries, blueberries, ferns, Queen Anne's lace, honeysuckle, and a holly bush. Fifty-one (51) campers from the Newport Parks & Recreation Department hiked and played games and were introduced to "Shinrinkyoku", the Japanese practice of forest bathing. Thirteen groups of 122 students from the Newport County YMCA visited Ballard Park over the course of July 3 through August 23. Field trip topics included animals, habitats, raptors, predators and prey.



Jenkins Construction's MUSIC MONTH featured three concerts and a record attendance with 756 people in 2018. The Toe Jam Puppet Band concert was held earlier in the season and attracted 423 people. Weather was challenging the day of The Ravers concert but 240 people came out to enjoy the reggae show. Chelley, Bill & Dyl performed on July 18th to a crowd of 93. Sponsors were AARP Rhode Island, Nina Bestoso, Ken & Tia Scigulinsky and Webster Bank. Co-sponsors were Kiki Finn, KVH Industries, Salve Regina University, TJ Brown Landscape and Turner Scott, Esq.

One hundred forty-six people turned out for a screening of *Rocky* on August 8th. Newport Martial Arts and Newport Boxfit gave demonstrations before the screening. The short *Tyrannosaurus Funk* by Sandra Boynton and Ira Baker was shown before the feature. Two hundred seventy-five enthusiastic fans of *The Princess Bride* turned out the following week. They cheered as characters appeared on screen and shouted lines in sync with the actors who spoke them. The short *Swiff* directed by Alexis Agliata was shown before the movie. The rain held off but turnout was low for *Bambi* (88 people) and the short *Rouff*. All shorts were provided by FLICKERS Rhode Island International Film Festival. RIIFF is the only Oscar qualifying festival in New England.



MOVIES ON THE ROCKS 2018 was sponsored by Cox, Marco Camacho for Newport City Councilor at Large, National Grid, Rhode Island House of Representatives, Ken & Tia Scigulinsky and Savings Institute Bank & Trust. Co-sponsors were Bartlett Tree Experts, BR Arnold Construction, the Fitzpatrick Team, Howard Johnson, IHOP of Middletown and Jenkins Construction. Supporters included City of Newport, IAFF, Newport Local 1080, Kate Leonard, McGrath Clambakes, Newport AOH, Newport FOP and Teresa Paiva Weed.



Ticks were an issue in summer 2018. A mother who attended The Toe Jam Puppet Band concert posted on social media that her children were 'infested after 10 minutes in the park'. Calls of concern were received from representatives at the YMCA and MLK Center (field trip program partners). An information sheet was made and distributed to parents of children participating in these programs.

Ninety-one people turned out for an evening of Sky Gazing on Saturday, September 15th. Robert Horton and Scott MacNeill showed event goers a first quarter moon, Jupiter, Saturn and Mars with the help of their high-powered telescopes.

At its September 20, 2018 meeting, the board of Friends of Ballard Park voted to 'mothball' the organization and not to renew the office lease with the US Post Office which concluded on November 30th. A tag sale was held on October 27, 2018 to sell event items and office furniture.